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Arab-Israeli Talks

Talks Begin 29 Nov; Sha'th Urges Progress

NC2911111693 Paris AFP in English 1008 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 29 (AFP)—Israeli and Palestinian negotiators began crucial talks in Egypt on Monday in their search for agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, negotiators said.

The talks were being held in Cairo and the Sinai peninsula town of al-'Arish.

"We have to make progress this week," PLO chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th told AFP before the negotiations resumed, a day earlier than expected.

The two sides have to iron out an agreement by December 13, the target date for the Israeli withdrawal to begin under the autonomy agreement signed on September 13.

Sha'th said all that was needed for a breakthrough was an Israeli "political decision which could be taken in 10 seconds."

Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat said Saturday that the autonomy talks had hit an "impasse" because Israel was only talking of an army redeployment instead of a withdrawal as sought by the Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told a cabinet meeting Sunday that the details of the autonomy must be worked out in full, even at the expense of delaying implementation.

"The essential thing is that there should be no ambiguity on the means of implementing the accord," he said.

Rabin begins a European tour Monday and will meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Brussels on Wednesday to discuss how to speed up the autonomy negotiations, according to Israeli television.

The talks on a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho have been taking place against a background of continued violence in the occupied territories.

Thousands of Palestinians rallied Monday calling for revenge over the killing of a PLO fighter in Khan Yunus refugee camp on the Gaza Strip.

Ahmad Khalid 'Abu-Rish, 20, took up the Israeli offer of amnesty a week ago but died in a shoot-out Sunday night when two other wanted fighters fleeing undercover troops came to his house.

The pair, two brothers accused of killing a Jewish settler, escaped but three inhabitants of the camp were wounded.

Israel To Resume 'Gradual' Prisoner Release

TA2911114993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Israel is to renew the gradual release of Palestinian prisoners in the framework of the autonomy negotiations. Qol Yisra'el's political reporter said the move is being made in order to bring about greater progress in the current round of talks, and as we hear in this report from Dick Winter, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid has confirmed the releases will indeed take place in the near future:

[Begin recording] [Winter] Yosi Sarid, who, along with Shim'on Peres, is a member of the steering committee which oversees the autonomy negotiations, says the reports of the imminent release of more Palestinian prisoners is true.

[Sarid] I can confirm; it is obvious that more Palestinian prisoners will be released gradually, but it has not been decided yet, and I can't tell you about numbers and figures. It is known that it is a gradual process, and more Palestinian prisoners will be released in the near future, but it is too early to talk about numbers and dates.

[Winter] Speaking this morning before a meeting of the Government Information Center, Sarid also said he was worried about erosion in public support for the peace process.

[Sarid] Well, of course I am worried, but to be worried is not a program. I can do nothing with my worries. I strongly and firmly believe that in the very near future, when the agreements will be implemented and the situation in the occupied territories vis-a-vis Israel will be improved considerably, I believe the public support will be raised tremendously, and this is the reason why I am optimistic. The people of Israel should remember that the process is still in its very own beginning, and we have a long way to go, and when we will finish the way, the target will be achieved, and the target is very, very promising.

[Winter] As far as the Syrian front is concerned, the environment minister said that despite Prime Minister Rabin's objections to the Oslo model of first signing a preliminary agreement of principles and then moving forward with the details, such a format is the best way to achieve a breakthrough with Damascus. Sarid said he believed that such a preliminary agreement would be signed within the next few months. [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Envoy Speaks at Environmental Meeting

JN2411195193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The fifth session of the council of Arab ministers in charge of environmental affairs opened at the Arab League Headquarters today. The 2-day session was

inaugurated by a speech on behalf of Iraq, the chairman of the previous session. The speech was delivered by Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League and head of the Iraqi delegation. He stressed the importance of Arab cooperation in all fields, including the environment. He said Iraq is currently suffering from the repercussions of environmental deterioration in various areas as a result of the direct military aggression against the infrastructure of the national economy. He noted that the aggression targeted all services and vital facilities.

An INA correspondent in Cairo said that the Iraqi representative handed over the chairmanship of the conference to 'Amir Bin-Shuwayn al-Husni, the Omani minister of provincial municipalities and environment, who in a brief speech, praised Iraq's chairmanship of the previous session and the efforts it made to make it a success. [passage omitted]

Egypt, Syria Agree To Trade Security Information

PM2511110993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Nov 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Cairo and Damascus Agree to Exchange Security Information"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Cairo and Damascus have agreed to exchange security information regarding Egyptians who succeed in entering Syria illegally.

Political sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the agreement came after Syria's deportation of 50 Egyptians who had crossed the Syrian borders into Syrian territory illegally.

The sources stressed that the deportation of the Egyptian infiltrators did not adversely affect normal Egyptian-Syrian relations and that the executive deportation steps were taken after contacts and coordination between the two sides.

The sources said that the talks held by Syrian Deputy Interior Minister Major General Ahmad Sa'id Salih in Cairo covered these issues and were pervaded by a spirit of understanding.

Meanwhile, specialized government officials in Egypt including representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Manpower, and Interior are holding extensive meetings to review the situation, to organize the travel of Egyptians abroad, especially to countries which do not require an entry visa, in order to avoid such incidents, and also to arrange for talks with officials of these states to ensure that measures taken do not violate the rules of humanitarian treatment. Through its contacts with the various Arab states, Egypt will also seek to question Egyptians who may be detained pending investigation of their violation of these states' laws.

Islamic Affairs

'Extremist' Organizations To Meet in Khartoum

PM2611135793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Extremist Organizations From 12 States To Hold General Conference in Khartoum"]

[Text] London, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Extremists and fundamentalists from more than 12 states are scheduled to meet in Khartoum early next month to draw up a joint strategy for tackling mounting political and financial pressures and problems.

An organization known as the "Arab and Islamic People's Congress" led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi is making preparations for the gathering.

Expected to attend are extremists from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Somalia, Tunisia, and Algeria. They will also be joined by extremists from non-Muslim countries such as the United States, Canada, Britain, Germany, and Austria.

A large delegation of Iranian mullas is also expected to participate in the conference to promote the aims of Tehran's foreign policy, especially its position on the PLO-Israeli peace agreement. The Iranian delegation will try to consolidate the position of 'Ali Khamene'i as the "supreme guide" for all radical movements in the Islamic world.

The conference agenda will include such topics as the continuing war in Afghanistan, the expected campaign against radicals in Pakistan, the wars in Tajikistan and Azerbaijan, and the political crises in Algeria and Somalia.

According to Western sources, the financial aid for the entire process comes from three Iranian foundations, namely "the Oppressed," "the Martyrs," and "Khordad-15."

It is known that these three foundations allocate part of their annual budgets to aid radical movements throughout the world. In recent years they have earmarked enormous sums to aid radical trends in Sudan.

Spokesmen for the three foundations yesterday refused to comment on the Western allegations. A spokesman for the Oppressed Foundation in Tehran stated that "the only aid we extend to Sudan is humanitarian aid." He added: "We know nothing about the Khartoum gathering."

Several fundamentalist groups are facing financial difficulties because of diminishing aid from the Arab states that had supported radical elements as part of a joint strategy against communism. Fresh tension has emerged between Egypt and Sudan. While the two countries are trying to set a date for the scheduled meeting between

their foreign ministers, the Sudanese authorities have arrested three Egyptian nationals working in Khartoum without giving any reason.

In a sudden move, the security authorities in the Sudanese capital arrested Hammad Isma'il, headmaster of the Egyptian Embassy's school; Henry Salamah, director of the Egyptian club attached to the embassy; and Hasan 'Abd-al-'Azim, accountant at the Egyptian Trade Center in Khartoum.

The Sudanese Authorities had earlier released three Egyptians arrested last June without giving any reason.

Further on Conference

EA2911202093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1620 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Nov (SUNA)—Second session of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference (PAIC) will be held here during the period 2nd to 3rd December with participation of 85 delegations from Arab and Islamic states, chairman of the preparatory information committee for the conference Siddiq al-Mujtaba said.

In a statement to SUNA following the meeting of the committee here Sunday [28 November] al-Mujtaba said a comprehensive programme for the conference sessions was worked out, pointing out that they had contacted mass media to prepare TV and broadcast programmes to reflect issues of the participating countries.

The meeting centred mainly on the role of the local mass media in reflecting the civilizational role of the Sudan for the purpose of refuting allegations by the Western mass media against the cultural orientation through the conference, he said.

He added that the meeting also underscored organizing visits for the participating delegation to the Sudan's various states, particularly southern states.

Four hundred and fifty persons are expected to take part in the conference, 73 of them journalists.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Tours Nordic States, Views Obstacles

Arrives in Oslo 25 Nov

LD2611213093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Oslo yesterday afternoon [25 November] on a two-day official visit. He was received with the full honors due to a head of state. Those receiving him at the airport were led by the Norwegian prime minister and senior officials in the Norwegian Government. The Norwegian prime minister accompanied President Abu-Ammar to his residence, then President Abu-Ammar went to the Norwegian Council of Ministers, where the first round of official talks was held.

These talks covered the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and the negotiations of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, the obstacles hampering them, and ways of removing these obstacles in order to implement the agreement on the ground, and the need for the Israeli withdrawal to be carried out on time, in addition to developments in the situation in the occupied territories and the pressing needs for rebuilding the Palestinian economy.

Meets Norwegian Foreign Minister

LD2611213293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Brother President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held a round of important talks at the [Norwegian] Foreign Ministry today with Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst. The talks covered the latest developments in the negotiations of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, the obstacles hampering implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and the efforts being exerted to overcome these obstacles in order to implement the agreement on the ground. They also covered the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories as a result of the policy of occupation, in addition to the economic situation and the economic program to support the occupied territories and rebuild the Palestinian economy. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

LD2611214493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, emphasized that it is necessary for Israel to adhere to the schedule fixed for beginning the withdrawal of its troops from Gaza and Jericho.

During a news conference today after his talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, brother Abu-Ammar added that there is no justification for deferring the implementation of what has been agreed. He referred to developments in the Gaza Strip, saying that they are a serious matter. He said that the only way to halt the escalation in the occupied territories was to hasten the actual implementation of agreements and not to defer them.

Visits Sweden, Urges Economic Aid

JN2711193993 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], state of Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee

chairman, has urged [words indistinct] the world community to support Middle East peace efforts by extending further economic aid to accelerate the development process in Gaza Strip and Jericho area.

In a joint news conference with Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt in Stockholm, 'Arafat announced that Gaza Strip is facing a real famine while the Jericho area needs to be reconstructed. He said: We lack everything, and we must start from the zero point.

Brother Abu-'Ammar added: There is no water or electricity. We have to build communications facilities, hospitals, schools, houses, harbors, and airports. We need a huge amount of aid.

For his part, Carl Bildt noted that [words indistinct], and we have to arrive at tangible results on the ground to boost the peace process. He said the Swedish Government has pledged $150 million in aid during the next five years to implement an economic development plan for Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

For his part, Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed that the Israeli Army's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area must take place on the set date despite the fierce clashes that occurred in the past few days. He said: We expect the withdrawal to take place as soon as possible. Everything will be done (?calmly).

Palestinian President brother Abu-'Ammar met with the Swedish prime minister, the foreign minister, and the leader of the Swedish Social Democratic Party. He will today meet with the parliament speaker and meet with various Swedish political leaders. Later in the day, Swedish King Carl Gustav will receive brother Abu-'Ammar before he leaves for Finland. He will also visit Denmark the day after tomorrow, Monday.

Brother Abu-'Ammar arrived in Stockholm from the Norwegian capital Oslo. There, he met with Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, who chairs the committee charged with coordinating international aid to the Palestinian authority.

In a joint news conference with Holst, 'Arafat said the $2 billion in international aid, which the world community pledged to provide to the Palestinian authority during the self-rule period and over five years, is much less than what the Palestinians really need. 'Arafat estimated they need $13 billion between now and the year 2000 to [words indistinct].

Regarding the criticisms leveled at the PLO over the way in which it will manage the international aid, brother President Abu-'Ammar said: We have complete economic plans in all fields and in all directions.

Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem, who the day before yesterday hosted a dinner banquet in honor of brother Abu-'Ammar, said that 'Arafat is a living legend. Addressing him, she said: You have proven that you are a man who is capable of facing many challenges and you shoulder a great responsibility.

During a meeting with Norwegian trade unionists yesterday, brother President Abu-'Ammar said peace has many enemies and we are paying a dear price for peace [words indistinct]. We have not yet reached an advanced stage. He added: I hope these difficulties will not affect the peace process. We can learn from Norway and the Norwegians and from their experience to find solutions to problems.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said: The Israelis' evacuation from the Gaza Strip and Jericho should not be affected by the recent events in the region.

In Tunis, a responsible Palestinian source has said that President Abu-'Ammar will make an official visit to Ireland on 12 December.

Leaves Stockholm for Helsinki

LD2711164693 Stockholm Radio Sweden in Swedish 1545 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Israel is hindering the peace agreement from being implemented, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said today when he visited the Folkens Museum in Stockholm. 'Arafat, who has been fairly careful in his criticism of Israel since the peace agreement was signed in September, was considerably more offensive today.

[Correspondent Erlandson] Israel is trying to cheat, the Israelis are cheating us, the Israelis are cheating the United States. Israel is not going to withdraw its troops from Gaza and Jericho area according to our agreement. This is what Yasir 'Arafat said today on his second and final day in Stockholm when he visited the Folkens Museum. During the night 'Arafat was visited at the Haga Castle by Nabil Sha'th who is responsible in the PLO for the continuing negotiations with Israel.

The negotiations have reached deadlock, 'Arafat said. This was the first time since the ceremony in Washington on 13 September that 'Arafat has been really critical of Israel. Only a few days ago 'Arafat condemned the murder of an Israeli settler by a Palestinian. This kind of condemnation has never before come from the lips of the PLO leader.

It was no surprise that it would not be a straight road toward peace and the implementation of commitments in the agreement between Israel and the PLO.

'Arafat appeared at a news conference in Stockholm yesterday as a man who talks a lot without especially saying very much, but apparently he wanted to send new signals to Israel today after what he described as a dead end situation in the negotiations.

'Arafat also said that the Israelis are breaking another part of the peace agreement: the Israelis have plans to build 13,000 new settlements around Jerusalem. That is exactly contrary to what we have agreed, the settlements were supposed to have ceased. That was the contents of our agreement, 'Arafat said.

[Announcer] The reporter was Lars Gunnar Erlandson. And we can add that after a short audience with the king, PLO leader 'Arafat left Sweden a little while ago and he is now flying toward Helsinki in Finland.

Expects New Initiatives From Israel

LD2711173993 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1700 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has arrived in Finland. After arriving at Helsinki-Vantaa Airport, 'Arafat said that the PLO has not cut peace negotiations with Israel. According to him, the PLO is expecting new initiatives from Israel. 'Arafat was received at the airport by Prime Minister Esko Aho.

'Arafat had official talks with the prime minister. Originally Foreign Minister Heikki Haavisto was also to take part in the talks but he had to cancel his participation because of illness. In the evening Aho will give a dinner in honor of 'Arafat. Tomorrow Aho [as heard] will meet with President Mauno Koivisto and visit the Diet.

Fatah Announces Resumption of Armed Struggle

NC2911105193 Paris AFP in English 1041 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Khan Yunus, Occupied Gaza Strip, Nov 29 (AFP)—Guerrillas from Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement announced Monday that they were resuming the armed struggle against Israel following repeated attacks on them.

The PLO leader ordered a ceasefire under the September 13 autonomy accord which the Fatah Hawks had observed.

"We are announcing this because Israel has broken the agreement," a masked militant told a press conference.

Opposition Groups To Form Alternative to PLO

NC2611181493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 26 Nov (MENA)—The Tunisian paper AL-SHURUQ reports today that the Damascus-based 10 Palestinian groups opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the Arab Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Liberation Front have decided to hold their national conference at the end of the year.

Citing Palestinian opposition sources, the paper says that the venue for the conference has not yet been decided but could be held in Khartoum, Sanaa, or Damascus.

The sources added that the conference will elect a central council and an executive office and that these bodies will be alternatives to the PLO.

They noted that holding a popular conference in Jordan to elect the representatives of the Palestinians there is regarded as a major problem facing the representation of Jordan's Palestinians to the conference. The issue of separating Jordanians of Palestinian descent and other Palestinians is a very sensitive one for the ordinary people and for official authorities. But the sources said that a delegation from the Palestinian opposition will meet soon with Jordanian officials and propose holding the popular conference in the camps only, since these are known as centers for Palestinian refugees and displaced persons who have obtained Jordanian citizenship.

PLO To Form Palestinian Government Before 2 Dec

JN2711115593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Nov 93 p 29

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] In a statement to AL-RA'Y, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Jordan, said that the Fatah Central Committee will meet in the Tunisian capital on 2 December.

Well-informed Palestinian sources told AL-RA'Y that the Palestinian leadership will hold a meeting before the Fatah Central Committee's meeting to elect a 20-minister Palestinian government chaired by Yasir 'Arafat in accordance with the PLO Central Council's decision in this regard.

The Palestinian sources noted that the Palestinian government, which will receive authority from the Israelis, will include 10 members from inside the occupied territory and 10 members—five of whom will be members of the PLO Executive Committee—from outside the occupied territory.

The following people are expected to be members of the Palestinian government: Dr. Hanna Nasir, Sulayman al-Najjab, Faysal al-Husayni, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Yasir 'Amr, Jamal al-Surani, Zakariya al-Agha, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Umm-Jihad [Mrs. Khalil al-Wazir], Zahirah Kamal, and Rabiha Dhiyab, as well as Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, if not assigned to the post of the PLO representative in Washington.

In another development, al-Haj Khalid Mismar, whom 'Arafat gave the task of mobilization and morale guidance for the Palestinian forces assembled in Jordan, said that these forces are in a state of full readiness somewhere in Jordan to move to the Palestinian homeland to receive their positions and tasks from the occupied forces in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli accord.

Al-Haj Mismar said: The Palestinian forces, which include the Badr, al-Karamah, and al-Aqsa forces, will enter the homeland after the signing of the withdrawal protocol between the PLO and Israel. He added: However, there are difficulties hindering the conclusion of this agreement. There are differences over the area of Jericho, the crossings, and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Al-Haj Mismar said that the Palestinian forces in Libya, Yemen, and Sudan will assemble in Egypt and will enter Palestine from Rafah.

Al-Haj Khalid noted that President 'Arafat has placed Major General Abu-Khalid Yasin in charge of property and equipment for the Palestinian police and national security forces. He added that winter uniforms for police will be dark olive-green and summer uniforms will be light olive-green. Al-Haj Mi'mar did not describe the badges and berets, but he said they were ready.

The official in charge of Palestinian security forces morale denied that the Palestinian leadership would be entering the occupied territory with the national Palestinian security forces. He said that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the members of the Palestinian leadership will not enter the occupied territory before the middle of January.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, al-Haj Khalid Mi'mar said that the next days and weeks—following the signing of the withdrawal protocol—will witness radical changes on the Palestinian territory, the first of which will be the Israeli withdrawal after a 25-year occupation.

'Abd-al-Shafi Refuses Role in Interim Authority

TA291117393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 29 Nov 93 p 2

[By 'Imad 'Abd-al-Rahman]

[Text] Gaza, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief Palestinian negotiator in the peace talks with Israel, has stressed that he will not take part in the self-rule authority that will be established to administer Palestinian affairs in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. He said: I adhere to my stance regarding nonparticipation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's remarks came in an interview with QUDS PRESS, during which he denied any knowledge of a recent report by a Tunisian newspaper that he had decided to take part in the interim Palestinian authority on the instruction of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, however, left the door open to his possible participation in the event such an instruction is issued.

He said: If something like this does take place, I will have my own conditions and observations. He asked: What are the powers and prerogatives of this authority? 'Abd-al-Shafi denied reports about his intention to retire from politics, and said: I am a Palestinian citizen and the cause of our people and my homeland, Palestine, is important to me. I will help Palestine as much as I can in any position.

'Abd-al-Shafi criticized the Israeli stance on the peace process and described it as "intransigent and contravenes international law and UN resolutions." He noted that this stance "is the most important obstacle to peace."

He added: Israel is treated by the countries of the world as a state above the law. It imposes its existence and position through its military power.

'Abd-al-Shafi expressed the belief that Israel "has begun to intensify the Israeli offensive around Jerusalem so that when the time comes to discuss the issue of Jerusalem in the talks, everyone will find himself facing a fait accompli favoring Israel. This is something that will decide the city's fate in practice.

'Abd-al-Shafi said: Before and after the accord, Israel did not back down from regarding the Palestinian territories as not occupied. This is the stance on which it has persisted from the outset.

He said: The Palestinian-Israeli accord implicitly recognized an independent Israeli entity in the occupied territories—the settlements. This entity will place obstacles to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the future.

'Abd-al-Shafi added: Israel has continued to consider its presence in the occupied territories as legitimate. The settlers are carrying out their attacks against Palestinians based on this premise. The accord left them room to do so because it did not challenge the Israeli stance.

He said: The accord has become a fact. Sooner or later, however, the ongoing talks will reveal whether the accord will respond to Palestinian rights that are not subject to bargaining or concession.

'Abd-al-Shafi called for the Palestine National Council's approval of the accord. He said that the Central Council's approval was insufficient. He renewed his criticism of the accord's articles, which he said "are prone to more than one interpretation."

On the military operations conducted by Palestinian fighters against Israeli occupation forces, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: The agreement contains large loopholes with regard to reaching a peace that respects the Palestinian people's natural rights. From this premise, there is Palestinian disappointment which resort to acts of resistance.

Abu-Zayyad Explains Withdrawal From Cairo Talks

JN291115493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Report by Ahmad 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Lawyer Ziyad Abu-Zayyad has called a news conference and announced the suspension of his participation in the talks between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo and al-'Arish.

He added:

[Begin Abu-Zayyad recording] I joined this negotiating process only because I am personally concerned about the subject of prisoners. I did not participate in the Washington talks. I only joined the fifth round, and then I withdrew. Except for the subject of the prisoners, I had no ambitions or interest in participating in the Taba negotiations.

In light of Israel's position on prisoners and its attempt to marginalize this subject, I decided to suspend my participation in the negotiations until the Israeli position changes radically, until Israel deals with this in a way that makes us feel it is ready to release all the prisoners and end the way it deals with them—a way that exhausts the nerves of prisoners, their relatives, and all those concerned. [end recording]

Answering a question on the urgent invitation to the members of the Palestinian delegation to visit Tunis, Zayad Abu-Zayyad said:

[Begin Abu-Zayyad recording] The invitation to several Palestinian brothers to visit Tunis results from the crisis in the Cairo negotiations. There is a real crisis in the Cairo negotiations, especially surrounding the issue of the Rafah and Allenby Bridge crossing points, and the subject of the area of Jericho. There is an urgent need for the Palestinian leadership to consult on this subject and to assess the entire negotiating process. [end recording]

Al-Najjab Not To Attend PLO Meeting 29 Nov

JN2911103093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Nov 93 p 29

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpts] Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has announced that he will not take part in the Palestinian leadership meetings, which will start in Tunis today.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Al-Najjab said that the formation of a Palestinian government in accordance with the recent PLO Central Council's decision will top the agenda of the Palestinian leadership's meeting. As usual, the meetings will be attended by PLO Executive Committee members, faction leaders, and members of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations in Washington. He said: I will not attend this Palestinian leadership meeting because I believe this meeting will be absolutely useless. He added: Other similar meetings have been held since the signing of the declaration of principles between the PLO and the Israeli Government. However, the fate of the decisions made at those meetings was that they were completely ignored by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Al-Najjab said that what actually happens is that decisions are made outside the meetings of the Palestinian leadership. He added that this is not in line with the Executive Committee, whose role as the leader of the Palestinian people is being marginalized. [passage omitted]

In response to a question, al-Najjab said: I am amazed at the talk about the formation of a Palestinian government [or] a national Palestinian authority before an agreement on the program and general policy of this government is reached. [passage omitted]

No Change in Resigned Executive Committee Members

JN2811112793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Nov 93 p 25

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Are we witnessing the start of reconciliations between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and members of the PLO Executive Committee who resigned in protest against the Palestinian-Israeli agreement? The Executive Committee members who resigned are Mahmud Darwish, Shafiq al-Hut, 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, Taysir Khalid, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Mahmud Isma'il.

In a telephone conversation with AL-RA'Y in the Tunisian capital, 'Abdallah Hurani affirmed that 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee, arranged for a meeting between him and President 'Arafat in his office in Tunis to convince him to attend the PLO Executive Committee meetings.

Hurani said that the meeting between himself and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] took place in the latter's office in Tunis last week. However, he said, the meeting resulted in nothing.

He added: "I explained to President 'Arafat that there is no personal quarrel with him and that my position on the agreement has not changed."

Hurani said: "I am against any personal rupture with Abu-'Ammar, but regarding the political position, we are in definite disagreement."

Hurani revealed that he was also invited to attend the latest meeting of the PLO Executive Committee, once before it was convened and again while it was in session. He said that he turned down the invitation.

He added: I did not attend the last Executive Committee meeting, and I will not attend the next.

Hurani said that during their hour-long meeting, President 'Arafat listened to him with all understanding and respect.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee member Taysir Khalid, who withdraw from the Committee in protest against the Oslo agreement, denied that a reconciliation plan had been proposed to him so that he would continue to attend the Executive Committee meetings.

Khalid, who represents the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine on the Committee, said: As far as I know, there is no change in the position of my six colleagues who withdrew from the Executive Committee in protest against the Oslo agreement.

Mr. Khalid affirmed that those who withdrew from the Executive Committee are coordinating their moves to escalate opposition and render illegal any decisions that this Committee may make after one-third of its members have resigned. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat Views Upcoming PLO Meeting, 'Crisis'

JN2811134393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by radio correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat: The PLO leadership has called on Palestinian personalities from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to participate in the emergency meeting that will be held in Tunis. What are the reasons for these consultations?

['Urayqat] The main reason is the outcome of the recent negotiations in Cairo and al-'Arish. The Israeli negotiating proposals show great intransigence regarding three issues; namely, defining the Jericho area, security matters, including the crossing points, and the detainees. This has caused negotiations to revolve in a vicious circle for a long time. The Palestinian personalities have been recalled, and invitations have been issued to attend a general meeting for the Palestinian leadership to discuss the outcome of negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib: Do you believe that there is a real crisis in the Israeli-Palestinian talks on implementing self-rule, or can the gap between the positions of both parties be bridged?

['Urayqat] I believe the negotiations are facing a real crisis. This is very clear from the statements made, for example, by Rabin who said that 13 December is not a sacred day. The political explanation of such statements is that they aim to shirk commitment to the date set in the agreement. This indicates a real crisis. If the agreement is not implemented, according to its provisions, on 13 December, the peace process and its credibility will receive a big blow.

[Mu'addi] Do you believe a summit meeting should be held between Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin in order to remove these obstacles?

['Urayqat] A host of things may happen now. There is the possibility of intervention by a third party, as Egypt did on previous occasions. The United States and European states may also do this. There is also the possibility of holding a meeting of the Follow-up Committee, chaired by Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] on the Palestinian side and by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the Israeli side. There is even the possibility of a summit meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and President Yasir 'Arafat. All these possibilities are open. However, it is not a matter of channels that can be used now, but rather what will happen with the Israeli negotiating methods and tactics.

With regard to the land area of Jericho, we usually do not refer to the city of Jericho, as the Israeli delegation does. There is also the detainees' issue. All parties are aware that reaching an agreement on the set date means an acknowledgement, in principle, that all detainees have to be released. This also applies to security issues related to roads, checkpoints, army camps, and crossing points.

Promoting the peace process and reaching an agreement at the set date require changing the Israeli negotiating proposals first and foremost.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib: You met with the Portuguese defense minister yesterday. What happened during this meeting?

['Urayqat] We made an intensive and expanded review to the guest minister of political developments, the situation on the ground, the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories as a result of the practices by both the settlers and Israeli troops, and the deteriorating economic situation. We also discussed issues of mutual cooperation, including a proposal to set up a Palestinian-Portuguese committee to act as an umbrella for various fields of future cooperation. We sensed a great response from the Portuguese minister who promised to return home, study the issue, and then visit Tunisia to discuss the issue with the Palestinian leadership.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, thank you very much.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Subayh, 'Urayqat Urge Israel To Implement Accord

NC2811115893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Muhammad Subayh, Palestine National Council secretary, said that postponing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement from its scheduled date of 13 December is out of the question because the agreement is a contract between the two parties and must be respected. No party has the right to unilaterally ask for a postponement. He pointed out that the more we delay the implementation, the more the peace will be jeopardized.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Subayh criticized Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for saying that the date is not sacred. He affirmed that the signature and timing are sacred. He called on Israel to speed up an accord on the implementation of the agreement and not to procrastinate because there is no justifiable reason for a postponement and so that Israel can withdraw from Gaza and the West Bank in peace. He noted that every drop of Palestinian blood is precious to the Palestinian people and their leadership. Subayh strongly criticized Israeli actions in the occupied territories because they have a negative effect on the implementation of the agreement.

Meanwhile, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations, has accused Israel of hampering the implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement. During a radio interview, he said that, from the start, the Palestinian side has displayed its

commitment to implement the agreement. Many Palestinian working groups are preparing for the next stage.

Forces To Move to Gaza, Jericho 'Within Days'

PM2911140693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Nov 93 p2

[Political Studies Center report: "The 'Sudan Forces' Arrive in Egypt; Scheduled To Move to Gaza and Jericho Within Days"]

[Text] London—The Palestinian forces stationed in Sudan since leaving Beirut in 1982 were due to arrive in Egypt yesterday to join other units which are traveling by sea from Yemen and by air from Algeria and Libya. All these forces will then be transported to the Gaza Strip from which the Israeli occupation forces are scheduled to withdraw before 13 December.

According to responsible Palestinian sources, the transportation of the Palestinian forces stationed in Iraq to the area of Khaw in al-Zarqa' in Jordan, where the Palestine Liberation Army's Badr forces are stationed, is expected to be completed within the next few days. All will then be moved to the Jericho region in the West Bank within the period mentioned above.

The Palestinian sources revealed that the Palestinian leadership, at a recent meeting in Tunis, decided to give the rank of major general to Fatah Central Committee Member Nasr Yusuf and appoint him chairman of the Higher Committee taksed with supervising the assembling of the Palestinian forces and their transportation to Jericho and the Gaza strip to take up their assigned positions before the date set for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from these two regions.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Higher Committee chaired by Major General Nasr Yusuf includes a large number of high-ranking Palestinian officers including Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah, Major General Abu-Khalid al-'Imlah (not the dissident Abu-Khalid al-'Imlah), Major General al-Hajj Isma'il, and Brigadier General Muhammad Qudsiyah, commander of the Badr forces stationed in Jordan.

Maj. Gen. Nasr was one of the first to join the Palestinian revolution in the mid-sixties. For many years he was commander of Fatah's forces in Syria known as the Golan Squad. He received his training in China, the Soviet Union, (East) Germany, and some Arab states.

The Palestinian sources say that the PLO forces which will proceed to the occupied territory within the next few days and which might be called the Palestinian national guard, consist of three parts: The active military forces, the police forces, and the intelligence forces which will be similar to ordinary intelligence forces in other states.

The Palestinian leadership has made great efforts over the past two months and held wide-range consultations with Egypt and Jordan to draw up the structure of these forces with their abovementioned branches.

Information available to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT indicates that this structure is now fully ready and that the current assembling of forces from Sudan, Yemen, Libya, Algeria, and Iraq is in the context of that structure.

It is known that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is commander in chief of the Palestinian forces that will enter Jericho and Gaza as well as the forces that will remain outside the occupied territory. He is expected to appoint a deputy soon, chosen from among the senior Palestinian officers. He will also complete the command assignments for these forces.

Negotiator Sha'th Views Talks, Withdrawals

NC2811204493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho negotiations, has praised the mediation efforts by Egypt and by President Husni Mubarak to bring the Palestinian and Israeli sides back to the negotiating table. He noted that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel contributed to narrowing the differences after the Palestinian side had announced the suspension of the negotiations.

In a speech to a symposium organized here tonight by the American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo, Dr. Sha'th said that the negotiations have not made any progress with regard to the release of the Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons or the issue of the supervision of the borders between Egypt and the Gaza Strip. Dr. Sha'th affirmed that the Palestinian side will never sign an agreement concerning Gaza only. The agreement must include Gaza and Jericho as stipulated in the declaration of principles, Dr. Sha'th added.

The Palestinian official said that the continuation of the exchanges of violence in the occupied Arab territories is due to the absence of any real tangible results in the peace process.

Meanwhile, in an exclusive statement to MENA, Dr. Sha'th described the new round of negotiations—which the Security Committee will begin in Cairo tomorrow, Monday, and the committee in charge of the transfer of authority will hold in al-'Arish—as the last chance to reach an agreement over the issues of transferring civilian authority and of security before the set date, 13 December.

Dr. Sha'th said that he had met with President 'Arafat in Stockholm yesterday, adding that 'Arafat instructed him to stick to a number of Palestinians constants: No Gaza without Jericho; no Israeli control of the borders with Egypt and Jordan; a real Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho; and an immediate release of the prisoners.

In his statement, Dr. Sha'th said that the Israeli side proposed a withdrawal from the district of Jericho, which it says has an area of only 27 sq km, while the Palestinian side insists that the withdrawal must take place from an area of 340 sq km, which represents the area of the district before it was occupied on 5 June 1967.

Dr. Sha'th expressed hope that the new round of negotiations will make progress so that authority will be handed over to the Palestinians before 13 December according to the agreement. He noted that any delay will have negative effects on the Palestinian-Israeli track and other tracks.

Sha'th said that the establishment of the Palestinian civilian authority on the agreed date would boost the preparations for holding the elections before 13 July 1994 and for starting negotiations over the final settlement of the borders and refugee problems and the status of Jerusalem, adding that the Palestinian side is committed to the need to have Arab Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

Sha'th called on Egyptian and U.S. businessmen to participate in investment projects inside the Palestinian territories, explaining that attracting private investments requires the implementation of the international community's pledges to build the infrastructure and start the work of the Palestinian security forces in order to provide the security and stability that are necessary for the prosperity of investments.

The Palestinian official said that agreement on supervision of the borders between Egypt and the Gaza Strip will speed up the implementation of the project for building an international airport in the Gaza Strip and establishing a free industrial zone on the border with Egypt, adding that this will strengthen the ties of economic cooperation and trade between Egypt and the Strip.

Dr. Sha'th stressed that the PLO is fully capable of shouldering the burdens of administering Gaza and Jericho as soon as the Israeli withdrawal is completed. He said that the Palestinians in exile—that is, 4 million Palestinians—have a role in transferring funds, expertise, and technology to the newborn Palestinian entity and thus will help build a free Palestinian economy that is based on exports and competition and not on replacing imports.

Dr. Sha'th said that he expects the establishment of security and stability in the Palestinian territories will boost tourism in the region and be beneficial to the neighboring Arab countries in view of the fact that there are holy places that are visited by Muslims and Christians from all over the world, adding that these visitors might total 10 million a year.

Dr. Sha'th praised the U.S. role in supporting the peace process politically and economically. He also stressed that the EC has played an important role in this respect.

In reply to a question on how the Palestinian police will deal with the opponents of the Gaza-Jericho agreement in the future, Dr. Sha'th said: We do not want to replace the Israeli occupation with a Palestinian one. There will be no barbarism in dealing with the Palestinian opposition, because everyone has suffered from the barbarism of the occupation.

He added: The majority of the opposition Palestinian political forces use political methods in expressing their opposition to the agreement. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has also declared its desire to contest the elections. He stressed that the achievement of security and stability, handling the unemployment problem—which is 65 percent in the Gaza Strip—and the appearance of the real fruits of the peace process will set the conditions for imposing security and law and order in the new Palestinian entity.

The symposium was attended by Housing Minister Engineer Salah Hasaballah; a number of foreign ambassadors in Cairo, including Israeli Ambassador David Sultan; Sa'id al-Bini, the political counselor at the Syrian embassy; and a number of Egyptian and American members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Cairo.

Sha'th Urges Resolving Problems

NC2711192093 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] In an initial statement after the emergence of obstacles to the talks over Israeli withdrawal, senior Palestinian negotiator Dr. Nabil Sha'th has told MBC that the PLO will not sign a withdrawal accord because of the obstacles the Israeli side is creating over the withdrawal of its forces from Gaza and Jericho. A little while ago, we asked Dr. Sha'th about the reasons for the deadlock.

[Begin recording] [Sha'th] Actually we have reached a deadlock twice. The first time was after the submission of the Israeli security plan and the second was in recent days. There was progress in the situation after we suspended the negotiations, and the Israelis improved their stance regarding our concept of withdrawal, which is stipulated in the accord we signed in Washington. But now we face a new problem regarding the definition of the area of Jericho region, control over the Palestinian-Egyptian and Palestinian-Jordanian borders, the release of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees held by the Israeli authorities, and some other issues. We see no progress at all on the Israeli side on these three main issues, and we cannot sign an agreement on 13 December without resolving these problems in a manner that is satisfactory to us and in line with the accord we signed in Washington.

[Unidentified reporter] Dr. Sha'th, what do you think is the way out of this impasse?

[Sha'th] Naturally we will be in touch with all our Arab brothers and friends in the world, and everyone will be

put in the picture. Of course we need all possible support in order to make progress, but we also believe that the Israeli side might make some progress without pressure because that would promote peace. Unless we sign an agreement and begin to implement it, we will not translate the principled accord into something tangible on the ground. We still believe that the next few days will bring something new; otherwise, the agreement cannot be signed on 13 December. [end recording]

'Arafat Adviser Discusses Detainees, Hamas

NC2611220493 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Nov 93 p 5

[Interview with Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and to the Palestinian delegations negotiating with Israel, by AL-AHRAM correspondent Amirah Hasan, in Jerusalem—date not given]

[Text] [Hasan] How did you get to be Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, although you are an Israeli Palestinian?

[Al-Tibi] First of all, I am a Palestinian and the PLO is the national home of Palestinians everywhere. I have accompanied and worked quietly, away from the limelight, with Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] since 1984. We have had difficult and good times since then. However, recent political developments have demonstrated the need to deal with the Israelis and seek ways of holding a dialogue with them to maintain contact and achieve positive results. This is what happened in connection with the Declaration of Principles and the mutual recognition.

[Hasan] Did you play a role in Israel's decision to release Salim al-Zari'i, the longest serving Palestinian political prisoner?

[Al-Tibi] Salim al-Zari'i is the Palestinian Mandela. He was the longest serving political prisoner, spending 23 years in detention. He was detained in 1970 following a sea-borne attempt to storm a military post in Gaza and sentenced to life imprisonment. Negotiations to release him were conducted personally with Rabin. I had the honor of transporting him to his house in Dayr al-Balah Camp where everyone came out to receive him.

[Hasan] Rabin agreed to release al-Zari'i, although Israel refused to set him free in earlier prisoner exchanges. Why did this happen in your opinion?

[Al-Tibi] Rabin understood the situation and made a courageous decision. He is generally a daring, sober man who does not show emotion. When he makes promises, he fulfills his promise. Before this he realized that without an agreement with Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO would lose and he would lose.

[Hasan] Is there a request to release [Hamas, Islamic Resistance Movement, leader] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin from detention?

[Al-Tibi] We submitted a formal request to the Israeli Government. There is another request from President Yasir 'Arafat to Mr. Rabin. Such a request was submitted more than once. During Abu-'Ammar's meeting with Rabin in Cairo, Abu-'Ammar renewed his request. Rabin expressed reservations. We pointed out that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin is an old, sick, and handicapped man and, above all, a symbol of the Palestinian struggle. President 'Arafat considers his case an important issue.

[Hasan] Can we view the request to release Shaykh Yasin as an attempt to open a new chapter in ties with Hamas and enhance 'Arafat's status in Gaza?

[Al-Tibi] The issue is not one of enhancing Abu-'Ammar's status because his popularity has evidently been rising in the past few weeks. The issue is that Yasir 'Arafat is the leader of all Palestinians and cannot seek the release of Fatah members only. This is why he requested the release of all Palestinian detainees.

[Hasan] Some in the occupied territories, particularly the opposition, are accusing the PLO of being concerned only with the release of Fatah supporters.

[Al-Tibi] This is very far from the truth. I assure you that President 'Arafat has requested the release of all detainees without exception or discrimination.

[Hasan] Do you believe that Hamas will join the peace process?

[Al-Tibi] Hamas' present opposition is a democratic one. We hope that Hamas will rejoin the Palestinian ranks for the sake of building the independent Palestinian state. This could be achieved through the effective participation in the construction process. I hope that Hamas will concentrate its efforts on the construction process.

[Hasan] What are the problems that will face the negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis?

[Al-Tibi] The Palestinian leadership has asked for the release of the 12,500 Palestinian prisoners. Israel does not agree. But since a new page [in relations] has been opened, anyone who has been imprisoned because of his involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be released because there is a difference between those struggling for independence and those who deliberately kill.

Meanwhile, the planning for the release of the detainees and the name lists are currently being worked on by a subcommittee of the Gaza-Jericho Committee. Israel is expected to release the detainees in stages, but the number has not yet been specified. The Palestinian leadership hopes that the detainees will be released immediately and before the legislative council elections so that they can take part in the elections.

[Hasan] How significant is the release of the detainees for Abu-'Ammar?

[Al-Tibi] Actually, this is a test of the credibility of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement by the Palestinian citizen. It is not feasible that while an agreement is signed by the

two sides the detainees remain in prisons, although those detainees have struggled for the sake of this agreement.

[Hasan] Do you know if the detention buildings and Israeli barracks will be transferred to Israel or will they be given to the Palestinians? Also, will some detainees be transferred to Israel?

[Al-Tibi] During his summit meeting with Rabin, Abu-'Ammar called for not transferring the detainees from Gaza to Israel. Rabin responded positively to this request. This is an accomplishment. There are buildings that must be handed over to the Palestinian national authority. It will be decided later whether these should be turned into schools instead of becoming prisons.

[Hasan] What is your relationship with the Israeli Government?

[Al-Tibi] I hope I will have strong and close relations with some Israeli politicians. I have strong personal relations with some of them. We, the Arabs in Israel, live with the Israelis and we work and study with them. We also share with them various domains including politics. We have strong personal and semi-official relations. I believe that this is a positive sign with which we can overcome some problems that might crop up on the arena in the future.

[Hasan] Are you prepared to live in the Palestinian state when it is established?

[Al-Tibi] Actually, I am from Et Taiyiba within the Green Line. Et Taiyiba is my birthplace, and I will remain here.

[Hasan] What role will the Arabs in Israel play in the peace process?

[Al-Tibi] We the Palestinians and the citizens of Israel attach importance to the completion of the Israeli-Palestinian peace. It is a common interest. I hope I made it clear regarding the meaning of the expression that the Arabs in Israel are a bridge toward peace. Although we continue to suffer from discrimination, I believe that if the security, political, and national tension subsides we will benefit from this peace like the Arab masses in general.

Algeria

Hamas Founding Member Bouslimani Kidnapped

LD2711171893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] A spokesman for the security forces today confirmed the kidnapping of Mr. Bouslimani, president of the Association of Guidance and Reform [and founding member of Hamas], by four gunmen at 0630 [0530 GMT] yesterday. The same source indicated that Mr. Bouslimani was kidnapped at the home of his brother-in-law who lives in Ouled Yaich, in the province of Blida [approximately 50 km south of Algiers]. The source added that the victim was abducted and forced into a Renault 20 vehicle with an Algiers license plate. This vehicle was discovered abandoned two kilometers away from where Mr. Bouslimani was kidnapped.

Society Issues Statement

LD2811112493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Two days following the kidnapping of Mohamed Bouslimani, leader of the Guidance and Reform Society, the society issued a statement today signed by its deputy leader. The statement says in part: The society stresses that the kidnapping of a well-known national Islamic personality may lead to a very serious slippery slope, the consequences of which will fully borne by those who are behind the operation.

Foreigners Take Precautions as Deadline Nears

NC2811134593 Paris AFP in English 1314 GMT 28 Nov 93

[By Hassen Zenati]

[Text] Algiers, Nov 28 (AFP)—Tension is mounting among Algeria's expatriate community as the Wednesday [1 December] deadline given by Islamic fundamentalists for foreigners to leave the country approaches.

Most French and European families living here have already left the country while husbands and fathers have taken up residence in hotels under government protection, well informed sources said.

They said of the 8,000 French nationals who moved to the country in recent years, a "good third" have left and others have moved into more secure neighborhoods where they are less vulnerable to attacks.

Earlier this month the kidnappers of three French nationals who were later released gave foreigners one month to leave the country or face "sudden death."

The kidnappers said they belonged to the Armed Islamic Group (AIG) and their leader was identified as Abou Meriem.

The group warned Algerian authorities that the "tyrant" would "pay dearly for its misdeeds." The warning apparently referred to a government crackdown against fundamentalists who have waged a rebellion since the army moved in to scrap the second round of general elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win in January 1992.

Although there have been no attacks against foreigners since the ultimatum was issued, foreign embassies here have taken the threat seriously and worry that the Wednesday deadline may bring renewed trouble.

Their concern has mounted as the AIG and the FIS have refused to negotiate with authorities who have hinted in recent days that they would be ready to meet representatives of the outlawed FIS to reach a settlement to the conflict.

In a communique dated November 20 the GIA stressed that it was up to those fighting "in the trenches" to decide on the country's future and warned that Islamic leaders living in exile would suffer "the worst death" if they negotiated with the government.

Foreign diplomats here also fear that fundamentalists may retaliate in response to a November 9 nationwide French government crackdown against suspected Algerian extremists.

Meanwhile, as the clock ticks toward Wednesday, security measures have been beefed up throughout the Algerian capital with foreigners restricting their outings and staying in close contact with each other.

Restaurants and nightclubs usually popular among foreigners have been deserted while the government and embassies have issued emergency phone numbers.

The families of French government employees have been moved to a residential neighborhood where the French embassy is located and additional military police officers have been sent from France.

UGTA Appeals for Calm After Seven Killed

LD2711200293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The national secretariat of the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] has made an urgent appeal to the forces active in the country to intervene quickly in order to put an end to this tragedy, which now poses a real threat to Algeria's future.

The newly-created Movement for the Republic indicated, in a statement issued today that the scope of violence now reached the families of politicians and trade unionists. Terrorism has again targeted the families of Benhamouda and Bouslimani. [passage omitted]

The security forces announced today that seven nationals had been killed and three others injured between Tuesday and Friday in central Algeria.

Five 'Terrorists' Killed in Tiaret Province

LD2711231293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The security authorities announced today that five terrorists had been killed and another 46 terrorists arrested last Tuesday in the Tiaret Province [western Algeria]. The same source announced that two gendarmes were killed during the operation; one of whom was an officer. [passage omitted]

Eight Citizens, Two Security Men Assassinated

LD2811205793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Because terrorism needs to claim more lives to destabilize the country, the security services reported today that eight citizens and two security men were assassinated by an armed terrorist group.

The crimes were committed in Algiers, Boumerdes, Tiaret, and Sidi Bel Abbes.

The security services also mentioned that yesterday morning, the vocational training center in Dellys, Boumerdes province, was the target of arson. The garage of (?Tecotra) municipality in Meftah, Blida province, was also the target of a similar arson; and the solemn funeral procession of Mr. Abdelhak Benhamouda's cousin took place in Constantine today. [passage omitted]

Former President Denies Existence of Civil War

LD2611224593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] There is no civil war in Algeria and there will not be any in the future. This statement was made by Ahmed Ben Bella, leader of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, in an interview with the Spanish daily LA VANGUARDIA.

Mr. Ben Bella said that those who look at the Algerian problem from outside and see it as a disaster or imagine so are people who do not understand anything of the problem.

Mr. Ben Bella, who denied the existence of a cultural, ethnic, or religious problem in Algeria, as is the case in Lebanon, said that the problem in Algeria is political and that what is happening in our country today is similar to what is happening in some other countries, such as Britain.

Dialogue Commission Confers With Political Parties

LD2811101093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Within the framework of a series of meetings with political parties, societies, and personalities, the National Dialogue Commission yesterday met with representatives of five parties. They are the FLN [National Liberation Front], the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, the Rally for Culture and Democracy, and the Islamic Ennahda Movement.

The Socialist Forces Front [FFS] did not attend the dialogue. The FFS in its last meeting with the Commission announced that it is temporarily suspending its participation in the dialogue but that it would continue its contact with the Commission.

Human Rights League To Take Part in Dialogue

LD2911105993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] The Algerian League of Human Rights issued a statement yesterday announcing its agreement to take part in the national dialogue despite what it has said about the crisis that the country is going through. The league explained that out of its attachment to its humanitarian stances it has called for dialogue, which is the best and most civilized way to bring views closer together and solve disputes. Consequently it has put forward its view, which was reflected in the statement issued by the Higher State Council after its meeting with the National Dialogue Commission.

Ennahda Urges FIS Inclusion in Dialogue

LD2511204693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] The Ennahda Islamic Movement today held a meeting in Oran that was attended by the party activists and chaired by leader of the Movement Abdallah Djaballah who said in particular: In the light of the statement of the Higher State Council [HCE] following its meeting with the Dialogue Commission, we believe that the Council has met some of the demands of the opposition with regard to the measures aimed at restoring reassurance to the hearts of the citizens and raising politicians' hopes regarding the true intention of the authority in today's dialogue. We urgently call for releasing the political detainees, removing the state of emergency, and halting the carrying out of death sentences. We are of the view that dialogue should be expanded so as to embrace the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], a matter that will help the success of the dialogue.

The Ettahadi Movement also organized a meeting of its activists in Oran in which leader of the movement Hachemi Cherif spoke: He said: We would like to say that the modernization of the state and the society is to enable every citizen to live his citizenship including living in total freedom regarding his religious belief and his relation with religion. We would actually like to establish a gathering of the various republican and democratic forces on the basis of a serious and transparent dialogue, and on the basis of securing the public interest over narrow partisan theories or calculations that aim at the ruling apparatus.

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Terrorism, Libya, Government

NC2911135393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Remarks by President Husni Mubarak in response to questions by unidentified correspondents following the inauguration of the National War Museum in al-Qal'ah on 29 November—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Some sources attribute the bid to assassinate Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to the bad economic conditions and the weak social conditions.

[Mubarak] What about terrorism worldwide? The other countries all have unemployment, maybe more than we do. Some share the same economic conditions as us and some are much worse than we are. At least, we are proceeding with reforms. If it weren't for that, we would have collapsed or become worse than other world states. We could have been like some states that I don't want to name. All these operations began after Afghanistan. They [not further specified] left Afghanistan for Yemen. Much money was spent during the problems in Afghanistan. They carry money with them.

[Correspondent] You repeatedly noted...

[Mubarak interrupts] Nonetheless, we seek to raise the standard of living of our citizens. We are proceeding with reforms. But we cannot do everything at once; we do not have the financial resources and, realistically, we cannot do everything at once. We have come a long way. I am not saying we should stay where we are today. On the contrary, we want to develop further. The point is that every development, change, or upgrading of standards of living requires enormous funds.

[Correspondent] Some people are calling for firmer measures to confront this. They call for stepping back from democracy so that we can overcome this violent current.

[Mubarak] [words indistinct] We respect the sovereignty of the law. We use the law and violate no law in dealing with people. We want people to learn how to respect the law and the Constitution. We should not occasionally use the law and the Constitution as playthings. We enforce the law. But we must make our country secure. When the French amended the law, adding a clause entitling them to chase terrorists up to 30 km outside France, the French prime minister was asked if that was going back on democracy. He replied: Democracy does not mean threatening the security of the homeland or the citizen. This was France, the longstanding democratic state.

[Correspondent] Have you put forward any initiative concerning the Libyan problem?

[Mubarak] The Libyan problem is very complex. We help as much as we can to reach a solution that preserves Libya's dignity.

[Correspondent] There was a meeting of the National Democratic Party panel. Are there new nominations for the party's General Secretariat?

[Mubarak] The possibility exists of course.

[Correspondent] What about the governors' appointments that were announced today. Are these appointments all there is or are they the beginning of a more comprehensive process?

[Mubarak] I don't believe in comprehensive changes. I observe everybody's performance; I welcome those who work and look to replace those who have nothing more to give or who are negligent in their work. It is not an issue of holding an occasional reshuffle. We cannot afford a reshuffle every now and then. This does not work. No country changes state governors just for the sake of change. It is not an issue of change. A man who works, shapes plans, and implements the plans is welcome, while a man who does not work, is fed up, or starts to show negligence is asked to give a chance to someone else who can do the job.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, you repeatedly highlighted the need for popular cohesion in the face of terrorism. After what was demonstrated following the assassination attempt against Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, are you satisfied with the people's role in fighting terrorism?

[Mubarak] Popular support for the state in resisting terrorism is the best guarantee against the spread of terrorism. No one should harbor a terrorist or withhold information if he knows the whereabouts of one. There will be sacrifices, but we should endure. How much are we sacrificing now? We do not want one, two, or three people to die; we are keen to protect our people against harm. We sacrificed 10,000 martyrs in the October war. [previous sentence as heard] We did not notice because they were away. This does not mean we should be frightened of resisting terrorism for fear that someone might die. This is our job; it is the Army and the police's job to resist and work. The police indeed perform an honorable job and are making great efforts. We appreciate what they are doing.

[Correspondent] Concerning the new formation of the NDP [National Democratic Party] Secretariat, what will be expected of a parliamentarian elected for party work?

[Mubarak] We do not call them conditions; we look for someone who performs a good job in his party, who studies things thoroughly, and who will be good for the public interest.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Reaction to, Probe of Assassination Attempt on Sidqi

Party Leaders Denounce Attempt

NC2611201593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Party and public figures in Egypt denounced the failed attempt yesterday to assassinate Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and described it as a criminal act by a group that is hostile to its homeland's interests and society.

In exclusive statements to MENA, these figures expressed deep respect and appreciation for the prime minister and for his efforts to perform his national duty in a manner that serves Egypt's interests. They appealed to all the forces of the Egyptian people to rally together and cooperate to uproot terrorism because of the danger it poses to Egypt and its future.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the opposition Labor Party, expressed his deep regret over this incident, stressing that it was a reckless and illegal act. He also expressed his regret about the innocent citizens who fell victim. He said that such acts by some groups severely damage Egypt's security and stability and impede development efforts to overcome the difficulties that Egypt is suffering.

Diya'-al-Din Dawud, leader of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, described this incident as an "ugly" one and said it shows a major collapse in the behavior of the terrorists who are seeking to harm innocent people in a haphazard way with the intention of dealing a lethal blow to democracy. He added that denunciations of these actions are not enough any more and said that there is a need for a comprehensive confrontation with terrorism. He noted that there is not a single person in Egypt who accepts these groups' reckless actions.

Mustafa Kamil Murad, leader of the Liberal Party, said that this incident confirms that the perpetrators come from organized criminal gangs that are financed and have their plans prepared from abroad to frighten the citizens and damage the country's economic interests. He added that these incidents will not shake Egypt's security and scare the citizens because the people and the government are cooperating together to eliminate these criminals. [passage omitted]

The Executive Committee of the al-Ummah Party led by party leader Shaykh Ahmad al-Sabahi regretted deeply the attempt to assassinate Dr. Sidqi. In a statement it issued following its meeting today, the committee condemned all acts of terrorism that aim to deal a blow to Egypt's economy and stability and the security of its sons. It appealed to all citizens to confront terrorism courageously and decisively. [passage omitted]

Islamic Groups Deny Involvement

JN2711180893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Report by Ahmad Idriss from Islamabad]

[Text] The armed Islamic organizations in Egypt have announced they had nothing to do with the attempt to assassinate Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi two days ago.

A statement was communicated to our radio here by phone by a person who said his name is Yasir Nur-al-Islam and that he is the official spokesman for the Tala'i' al-Fath group. The statement said the report disseminated by world news agencies on this issue attributing the assassination attempt to al-Jihad is untrue. He explained that the three groups—Tala'i' al-Fath, al-Jihad, and the Islamic Jama'ah—deny they carried out this operation, which resulted in innocent victims, because targetting civilians, the Army, or the police is not part of their policy.

The spokesman called on Egyptian officials to make public the names of those accused in this incident, adding that it could have been carried out by individuals who possess weapons but who do not belong to any of the three organizations.

It is worth noting that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, during his visit to Egypt last week, signed a security agreement to exchange accused people between the two countries. This agreement is of no value now as Rabbani has no control of the state or other leaders.

Interior Minister Comments

NC2711214993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stated that the terrorists who carried out the abortive assassination attempt against Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi the day before yesterday belong to the Vanguards of Conquest Organization. He noted that the terrorists belong to the same organization that carried out the abortive assassination attempt against him on 18 August.

Speaking to reporters this evening after visiting at the hospital a child who was wounded in the incident, al-Alfi ruled out the use of a remote control device to trigger the explosive device against the motorcade of the prime minister on Thursday. He stressed that none of the criminal laboratory reports mentioned the use of remote control. The interior minister pointed out that the explosives contained in the device weighed eight to 10 kg of highly explosive TNT. He noted that the security agencies have new information and that the perpetrators of the incident have already been identified, adding that this information will be made public soon. The interior

minister declined to reveal the names or number of the suspects, adding that such a revelation could harm the investigations.

In response to a question about the type of car used in the incident, the interior minister said that the security men had identified the first owner of the car through the chassis number. He added that extensive investigations are under way to determine the last person who used the car, who will be identified within two days at most. He noted that the car license was issued in Cairo, adding that an examination of the car's file is under way at the traffic department to which the file belongs.

Asked about a report recently published by a weekly newspaper in which a terrorist leader claimed responsibility for the attack and threatened that more terrorist crimes will take place in the future, the interior minister said that what has been published is regrettable and is being investigated. He added: It is not proper for this newspaper to do this, because by doing so it supports criminals and murderers and promotes what they are doing, which is not what freedom of the press is all about. He added: All these things are being investigated, because this is incitement to crime, particularly since this terrorist emphasized that new crimes would take place.

Regarding the fugitive terrorist elements outside Egypt, the interior minister emphasized that certain measures are being taken in this regard along with other quarters, both inside and outside Egypt. He noted that the terrorist operations are desperate, cowardly attempts to shake up stability and security in Egypt. He emphasized that these operations will lead to absolutely nothing in the end.

He described as cowardly the terrorists' act of placing such devices near a school where it could injure innocent children for no wrong they have done. He added: These attempts are just to show off.

The interior minister appealed to citizens to report any suspicious person in order to help the security men contain these outlawed terrorist elements. He stressed that intensive search efforts will continue for new information on the case, and noted that it is not in the interest of the security agencies to reveal all the information they have.

Concluding his statement, the interior minister urged the public to cooperate with the police, noting that what is happening affects all the people, with a view to destabilizing the country and obstructing the major development process taking place in the country.

Suspects Named

NC2811122593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Security sources have stated that 11 individuals are the culprits who planned and carried out the abortive terrorist attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi on Thursday [25 November]. All of them belong to the Vanguards of Conquest [Tala'i' al-Fath] Organization.

The source said that Mahmud Makkawi, who is the leader of the Vanguards of Conquest Organization and who is presently in Pakistan, is one of the defendants. Makkawi is one of the people who went to Afghanistan with his colleague Ayman al-Zawahiri, who reportedly now lives in Geneva, Switzerland.

Five of the 11 defendants have been identified, and a search is under way to apprehend them. The five are 'Adil Siyam, Usamah Rushdi, Tariq al-Fahl, 'Adil 'Awad, and Muhammad Mustafa. They are the same group that tried to assassinate Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi on 18 August. Terrorist Nazih Nushi Rashid, who participated in the attempt, died in the incident.

These defendants also participated in the car-bomb explosion in the al-Qulali area a few months ago and the abortive attempt to assassinate UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali during the OAU summit in Cairo.

Forensic Report on Explosive Device

NC2811135193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—According to a preliminary forensic report, the overall weight of the explosive device that was used in the recent attempt on Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's life last Thursday [25 November] was about 40 kg, but the quantity of highly explosive TNT inside it was between 8 and 10 kg. The report said that the device had an electric detonator and a timer.

Last night, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi emphatically denied that the bombing was carried out by remote control, asserting that forensic reports about earlier incidents also did not indicate that remote-control detonation was employed.

Available information shows that manufacturing such a large device proves that its makers are highly trained and experienced terrorists, because no ordinary expert could have assembled such a device. In addition, ordinary citizens cannot obtain the components that were used, particularly the TNT and the electric detonator. [passage omitted]

Commentary Scores 'Terrorist Attack'

NC2611203693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq commentary: "The Egyptian People Reject Terrorism and Extremism"]

[Text] The masses of Egypt who took part in the somber funeral of the innocent girl student who fell victim to the criminal terrorist attack yesterday afternoon that targeted Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi was a popular demonstration against terrorism and extremism. It was a

spontaneous expression of the Egyptian masses' rejection of this bloody and ugly phenomenon, which is alien to Egypt and the ethics of its people. It was the just voice of millions of people demanding a violent and strong confrontation of this deceived and deceiving faction that has chosen the course of vileness and cowardice to kill innocent people, frighten citizens, and damage property.

Terrorism has reared its ugly head again. It is adding new chapters to its black pages with blood and the corpses of innocent people. It has returned behind a mask of vileness and cowardice to plant its explosive devices that cause death and damage among the offspring of the people without mercy or humanity. The criminal hands chose this time a site between two primary schools to stage their attack. The nature of this criminal and inhuman behavior explains the vile nature of those who are behind this treacherous action.

These base criminals have chosen fire and blood as a slogan for their rejected conduct. Their choice of a site where hundreds of Egypt's sons and daughters were studying to carry out their treacherous crime against the motorcade of the prime minister who was on his way to work is an action that principally targeted the Egyptian people's stability and security and the Islamic nation in its way of life. Shedding blood and frightening the innocent has nothing to do with Islam and is very remote from the teachings of all religions and a blatant violation of the principles of human and ethical values.

We say that the main objective of this bloody action was not the prime minister but the stability and security of Egypt, which he represents and also the determination to continue economic reform until Egypt achieves social progress and economic prosperity. A stable and secure Egypt is the protective shield that confronts all the ambitions of the spiteful and their plots in the region. It is the thorn in the side of these plotters, who devote themselves and their lives to spreading trouble and problems in the Middle East and the Arab Gulf region and who believe that the only useful thing they can do is to harm stability and security. A stable and secure Egypt is capable of propelling the peace efforts in the region, which is the certain way for restoring rights to their owners and the territories to their peoples. It is the key to security and peace as it is the key to wars in the region. For all the above reasons combined, the forces of evil and aggression act from time to time against Egypt and set in motion the claws of evil, the agents and the weak-willed persons who have agreed to be a pliant tool and implement the plots of these criminal and evil forces.

The Egyptian people are quite aware of the significance of these terrorist actions and its rejected objectives. They understand the dimensions of the spiteful plots carried out by these extremist elements against Egypt and its security, peace, and prosperity. Hence, we can clearly understand the significance of this deep cohesion between the Egyptian people and government, the ruler and the ruled. It is these feelings that unite all sectors of the people in confronting this criminal phenomenon and condemning it. This was best manifested when the masses of the people chased the remnants of the terrorist elements. The problem concerns everyone and all share in the tragedy. The victims are, after all, Egypt's sons.

It is from this premise that we say that Egypt and its people are all right. No spiteful person or plotter will succeed in damaging our national unity or undermining the cohesiveness of our domestic front.

Regardless of the martyrs who fall down and despite the bitterness that fills our hearts with every treacherous terrorist action, there will always be our belief in God, the homeland, and the people's ability to overcome tribulations so that Egypt can forever remain the abode of safety, security, prosperity, and peace despite the vileness of the dwarfs and the renegade plotters who violate religion, ethics, and law.

'Abd-al-Rahman Case To Resume 4 Dec

NC2811193493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—The Higher State Security Court, Emergency Division, decided today to postpone until 4 December the trial of the defendants in the illegal assembly case that occurred in al-Fayyum in 1989. The summation by the counsel for the prosecution will be heard on that date.

Today the court listened to testimonies by several defense witnesses, who tried to refute charges of illegal assembly and related charges against some of the defendants. Forty-eight defendants are facing charges in the case, primarily Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

The prosecution indicted them on charges of illegal assembly, resisting the authorities, possession of unlicensed arms, explosives, and ammunition, and attempting to transport them.

Sentences in Two Cases Detailed

NC2911112493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—The sentences issued in the Vanguards of Conquest case, involving 208 defendants divided into four groups, have been endorsed together with the sentences issued last October in connection with Case No. 19.

An official Military judiciary source has stated that the military courts issued the death sentence against nine defendants in the Vanguards of Conquest case. Eight were in the first group, of whom two are at large, and one in the third group tried in Alexandria.

The military court that tried the case of Organization 19 [tanzim 19] in Alexandria issued the death sentence against two defendants.

The source pointed out that the military courts sentenced six defendants involved in the Vanguards of Conquest case to life with hard labor, two defendants to 20 years imprisonment, 16 defendants to 15 years hard labor, nine defendants to 10 years in prison, one defendant to 8 years in prison, three to seven years imprisonment, and two to six years imprisonment.

The courts also sentenced 24 defendants to five years imprisonment and 46 defendants to three years imprisonment, acquitted 89 defendants, and dropped the case of one defendant, who died.

The military prosecutor charged the defendants with joining a group established in violation of the Constitution to change the ruling system by force and terrorism, killing a truck driver and assistant, attempting to murder three security guards and steal their weapons, and possessing unlicensed weapons and ammunition to carry out terrorist operations.

The military court issued its sentence in the case of Organization 19, sentencing one defendant to life imprisonment with hard labor, two defendants to 15 years hard labor, two defendants to 10 years hard labor, and three to seven years imprisonment.

The court also sentenced two defendants to five years hard labor, one defendant to one year imprisonment with hard labor, and one defendant to one year in prison. It acquitted four defendants.

The defendants involved in the Organization 19 case were charged with joining a group established in violation of the law, calling for obstructing the law and Constitution, destroying national unity and social peace, and changing the ruling system by force and through terrorist methods. They were also charged with being accomplices to a criminal agreement to commit murder and theft and possessing weapons and explosives to disturb law and order.

Those sentenced will be notified that their sentences have been endorsed at their place of imprisonment. They will be entitled to file appeals within 14 days of notification.

Two Men Hanged for Attack on Army General

NC2711111093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—Two men were executed in the Cairo Appeals Prison early this morning in connection with the military crimes in Case No. 19, the Zinhum case [involving an attack on an army general's car]. Mahmud Salah Jad and Mustafa 'Awni Zaki were hanged in the presence of the military prosecutor and a forensics expert.

Asyut's al-Jihad Military Leader Released

NC2711084493 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Nov 93 p 8

[Report by Kamal Jabr]

[Text] The State Security Court in Asyut has ordered the release of Jamal Farghali Haridi, leader of al-Jihad's military wing in the governorate. It also ordered the release of 'Imad Zaki 'Alam-al-Din and Sharif Ahmad Muhammad. All were released without bail.

The suspects were arrested last year on charges of possession of weapons, leaflets, and maps of strategic areas in Asyut.

Counselor Nasr-al-Din al-Badrawi presided over the three-judge panel which also comprised Counselors Faruq 'Abd-al-Qadir and Salim Muhammad Nasrallah.

Two Injured in 'Extremist' Attack in Asyut

NC2811184693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Asyut, 28 Nov (MENA)—Two brothers were wounded in Asyut today when some members of extremist groups attacked them in retaliation for their father's decision to hand over a mosque in the al-Walidiyah quarter to the Ministry of Awqaf.

A police force led by Major General Majdi al-Basyuni, director of the Asyut Security Department, launched searches for the criminals. The police apprehended 107 terrorists in addition to seizing leaflets and cassettes. The public prosecution headed by Public Prosecutor 'Izzat Sa'd has carried out investigations.

Interior Minister Bans Press Interviews With 'Extremists'

NC2811190593 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] In Cairo, Egyptian authorities today adopted a new measure to confront the wave of violence launched by extremists. Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi has ordered newspapers not to publish interviews with extremists.

Minister Denies Agreement To Export Gas to Israel

NC2811135793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi denied that Egypt has so far signed any agreement with Israel to supply that country with natural gas.

The minister's remarks were in response to an urgent question posed by Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, leader of the opposition in the People's Assembly, during an Assembly debate today.

Al-Banbi said that he and Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, who recently visited Egypt, agreed on the formation of two working groups to examine various options in light of existing needs and Egypt's natural gas reserves. Among the questions being considered are whether foreign companies participating in the production of natural gas in Egypt could be allowed to export their share, whether Egypt should buy their share, and whether Egypt should provide a quota, production permitting, to help Gaza and Jericho.

Al-Banbi said that once the research is completed and we reach a recommendation, we will submit it to the competent authorities. He affirmed that the Petroleum Ministry does not work in secret.

The petroleum minister said that reports disseminated in Israel were mere speculation, noting that he and the Israeli minister discussed international developments.

Dr. al-Banbi said that Egypt has a crucial and influential role in the peace process, noting that there is still the need to stimulate that process in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The petroleum minister said that, in their discussions, the foreign ministers of the countries sponsoring the peace process asked the international companies working in Egypt to export their share of natural gas to Israel.

Dr. al-Banbi said that Israel can obtain natural gas from sources other than Egypt. The Gaza and Jericho areas need assistance, and it is not reasonable for us to take a position that would upset the peace process, the general trend to participate in peace, or neighboring countries.

Mubarak Talks With Jordan's Husayn Detailed

PM2911105093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Nov 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "President Mubarak and King Husayn Agree To Link Boycott With Comprehensive Solution and Complete Israeli Withdrawal"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—King Husayn of Jordan yesterday left Cairo after a lightning official working visit, the first of its kind since the emergency Arab summit conference held in the Egyptian capital following Iraq's invasion of Kuwaiti territory three years ago. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources in Amman have pointed out that the Jordanian Government pinned great hopes on the summit between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn, because, according to the sources, this could be the way to achieve a breakthrough in Jordan's relations with Egypt and a number of other Arab states.

Cairo sources have pointed out to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that President Mubarak and King Husayn emphasized the necessity of complete [Israeli] withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and signing peace accords on all fronts before there is any talk of abolishing the economic boycott or of regional cooperation with Israel. The talks also dealt with bilateral relations, opening a new chapter between the two countries, characterized by joint cooperation in all spheres, and bolstering trade relations in particular.

The sources revealed that the talks broached conditions in Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Gulf region. They said that a major part of the talks was devoted to restoring Arab solidarity and clearing Arab relations, especially as the two countries have made endeavors in this connection and emphasized their support for the Arab League secretary general's initiative in this regard.

It has also been learned that the Egyptian president and the Jordanian monarch discussed the results of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and ways of containing disagreements among Palestinian factions or between Syria and the Palestinians, especially within the framework of the talks held recently by the Jordanian monarch with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, so as to guarantee the unity of Arab ranks and the restoration of joint coordination both before and after the rounds of negotiations. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic sources pointed out that the peace process, Arab relations, the situation in the Gulf and the Balkans, and bilateral relations were high on the agenda. The sources indicated that the Egyptian president and the Jordanian monarch agreed on the necessity to achieve progress on all tracks and not to let the achievement of an agreement on one track prevent the acceleration of a settlement on the other tracks. It was also pointed out that security, peace, and stability in the region cannot be achieved while a single inch of the Arab territories Israel seized during the 1967 war is still occupied. [passage omitted]

Iraq's Stand on Kuwaiti Prisoners Criticized

NC2711102193 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Nov 93 p 2

["Kaleidoscope" column by Ahmad Bahjat: "Comment"]

[Text] A prisoner [of war] is normally a person who obeys orders. He does not fight because he wants to, but because he receives orders as a soldier to move, advance, and shoot. He cannot disobey or apologize because he is a soldier and it is his duty to obey orders.

If he falls prisoner, he should be regarded as such. He is not responsible for the war and therefore no revenge should be exacted from him, nor should he be tortured or mistreated.

The Geneva Convention regulates the rights and treatment of prisoners.

Prisoners are supposedly exchanged as soon as war ends. Thus, keeping the prisoners, denying their existence, or procrastinating in their release is regarded as an inhuman act and lacks any justification.

Iraq's problem with the Kuwaiti prisoners is that it sometimes denies their existence, or admits it has them at other times but delays in handing them over. At still other times, it presents its own agents and spies as prisoners. It is only exporting them with the aim of carrying out sabotage.

If we add to all this the repeated aggressions against the Kuwaiti borders, we realize the anxiety which the Iraqi regime is spreading in the Arab region.

In a letter from Qays Mahmud Musa, the official in charge of Iraqi interests, I pondered his reference to the real tragedy of thousands of Iraqi prisoners who have been languishing in Iranian prisons for more than 10 years, away from their families, sons, and dear ones and his rebuke when he said: "Since when do Iraqi prisoners have fathers, mothers, and friends to make the Arabs care to demand their release?"

We want to tell him that we do not have in our possession enough information about the issue of Iraqi prisoners from the first Gulf war between Iraq and Iran. Let him please send us the information he has on this issue and then he will see for himself the attention that the media will pay to it.

For the sake of the truth and history, the Egyptian people are not hostile to the Iraqi people and do not ignore the issue of their prisoners but is hostile to the Iraqi regime that started two wars in the Gulf and succeeded through them in presenting the enemies of the Arab nation with more than they had ever hoped for.

The issue of prisoners will always remain a humanitarian one in the first place and a very sensitive one. Any tampering with this issue incites a whole people and means that the war of hatred is not over yet.

Libya

Ju'akah Family Endorses 'Liquidation' of Witness

LD2811150893 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Inside the big tent, which the masses of Suq al-Jum'ah pitched to meet him, the brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] hailed these masses for their steadfastness, defiance, and readiness for the confrontation. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified man] Great leader: The family of Ju'akah [Libyan who defected to the United States to testify in the Lockerbie case] reaffirms its everlasting attachment to your leadership and your thinking in favor of the masses and its readiness to die for the sake of the great gains achieved by this people. It also announces that it is disowning that man, the traitor, the spy and that coward who sold himself to the devil. The family also announces that it considers the shedding of his blood lawful in view of his cowardly and contemptible action. It also regards his physical liquidation a legitimate right for this family first and a sacred duty for all the sons of the Great Jamahiriyah in defense of honor and dignity. There is no room for debate or points of view when the values of this people are undermined because there is no homeland for treason. The 1 September [revolution] for ever and the revolutionary struggle continues.

Gentlemen; his father would like to say something, his father.

[Ju'akah's father] Brother leader of the great revolution; I am the father of that sick man. That son of mine was in a psychiatric hospital. I have a file which I will present to the leader. He is sick and even if he were not, we are disowning him and we do not recognize him. I am his father but what can I do? I am illiterate and I cannot speak. I am truly embarrassed. I am truly embarrassed, leader.

Presents Psychiatric File

LD2711133793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1122 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Jan (JANA)—Those who were present during yesterday's meeting between the brother leader of the revolution and the masses of the Suq al-Jumu'ah area of Tripoli were surprised to see the Ju'akah family, whose son was detained and who is alleged by the West to be a witness for the prosecution in the case of the American Pan-Am airliner.

At this meeting, which was transmitted last night by the Great Jamahiriyah television, the family of this person presented to those gathered there with a dossier containing official papers signed by Libyan and foreign psychiatrists. A number of people present expressed regret, because, as they said, if this information had emerged at the beginning of the case the West would not have been able to fabricate accusations against Libyan citizens, as this dossier proves that false testimony was made by an insane person. If such a dossier with the official documents it contains was placed before any court in the world then this court would not have looked into this case, which is mainly based on the testimony of a mentally disturbed person—a matter which proves the innocence of Libya. Since the very beginning Libya has stressed this innocence.

It becomes apparent that he who caused accusations to be leveled against two Libyan citizens with regard to the Lockerbie case is a person who is mentally disturbed, a person who was lured by $1 million to give a falsified testimony.

The dossier presented by the Ju'akah family is regarded to be a most serious file; its contents totally undermine the allegation against the two Libyan citizens as from the time when this dossier emerged. One cannot depend on the testimony of an insane person who has been publicly disavowed by his own family, who have decided to kill him, and who have given permission to the Libyan people to kill him.

Al-Qadhdhafi Issues Declaration on Rushdie

LD2811144893 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the International Muslim People's Command, made the following declaration to JANA:

Following immense pressure from the groups of the International Muslim People's Command, the flood of individual contacts and others with me regarding the continuation reception by the governments of Christian states of the author of *Satanic Verses* and as the Christian publishing houses began to reprint this book and having read a resume of this book, I found it one of the most repugnant and insolent works against the prophet of Islam and the last messengers of God and against the prophet's family (Koranic verse regarding respect for this family).

The writer describes the prophet of Islam as drunken and adulterer. He describes the honourable home of the prophet as one of the brothels of Mecca and the prophet as its manager. The writer portrays the wives of the prophet, who are considered by Muslims as the mothers of the faithful, as members of the brothel. He considers the Koran as a false book.

The leader of the revolution added in his declaration that 'on my part I do not demand the execution of the author of this book for the late Imam al-Khomeyni issued a fatwa regarding this issue. But I demand the destruction of the book itself. By receiving the author of this book and allowing their publishing houses to reprint this insolent book, the heads of the Christian states are in fact recognizing and encouraging the contents of the book against the prophet of Islam, against Islam, against the Koran and against the honourable family and home of the prophet. These open receptions and encouragements for the author by the heads of Christian states constitute the biggest humilitation directly and firstly against the custodian of the two holy shrines and the shaykh of al-Azhar showing them impotent in performing their Islamic duties which they entrusted themsleves if they did not consent to the contents of the book.

Al-Qadhdhafi Holds Phone Conversation With Mubarak

LD2611174293 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution had a telephone conversation with President Husni Mubarak of the sister Arab Republic of Egypt, to inquire about the condition of the people wounded in the failed assassination attempt against Prime Minister Dr. Atif Sidqi.

The leader also congratulated President Husni Mubarak on Dr. Atif Sidqi's escape.

Morocco

House of Representatives Approves Government Program

LD2711222293

[Editorial Report] Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic at 2137 GMT on 27 November broadcasts an announcement by the speaker of the House of Representatives, Mohamed Jalal Essaid, on the results of the vote on the government program, which has been discussed by the House for the past four days. Essaid says that 202 were for and 118 were against, with noone abstaining. Therefore, the government program has been approved by a majority of 37 votes.

Belgian Foreign Minister Claes Received by King Hassan

LD2711205393 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II this afternoon received Willy Claes, the current president of the Council of Ministers of the European Union and Belgian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the royal palace in Bouznika [suburb of Rabat].

After the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Abellatif Filali, His Majesty was greeted by the members of the delegation accompanying Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, Belgian Ambassador to Rabat Andre Fontaine, Mark Pierini, the head of the EC delegation in Morocco, and Abdallah Lahlou [name as heard], His Majesty's ambassador to Belgium and the EC.

Holds News Conference

LD2811040093 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes had a meeting with some members of the government and held a news conference before leaving our country this evening.

[Correspondent] The Belgian minister had a meeting with the minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of the Moroccan community abroad, Ahmed

Ouardi, and the minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of human rights, Omar Azziman. The meeting focused on the state of the Moroccan communities in Europe and means of cooperation between Morocco and the EC in the sphere of human rights. The state of human rights in the Mediterranean region was also discussed.

Willy Claes held a news conference at Sale-Rabat airport, during which he reviewed the spheres of cooperation between the EC and the rest of the Mediterranean countries. He summarized these in five points concerning cooperation in the political, technical, economic and financial fields, and endeavors to establish a free trade zone. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Criticizes U.S. Policy, Views Other Issues

EA2811153093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0905 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Nov (SUNA)—President of the Republic General 'Umar al-Bashir said U.S. hostile policy against the Sudan was not because of the human rights or democracy but aimed at holding back Sudan from its determination, independent political decision and total sovereignty. General al-Bashir, in an interview with the French daily LE FIGARO [reported] by the daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, issued here Sunday [28 November], reviewed the efforts made by the government since the beginning of the revolution to promote relations with America, referring to the Gulf War as a cause for weakening these relations [and] reaffirming Sudan's commitment to develop its foreign relations with the West, particularly France.

President al-Bashir discussed the Sudan's internal and foreign policies saying religious freedom [was] respected and the coming period would witness the preparation of the new Constitution by the parliament to realize national unity. General al-Bashir recounted the endeavours by the government for finding a solution to the southern Sudan question in the context that realized a just and comprehensive peace in the country.

About the agricultural revolution, al-Bashir said it achieved major successes, referring to the Sudan as one of the three states with the potential for securing world food.

Foreign Minister Assails 'False Claims' of UN, U.S.

EA2711120493 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Salayman Abu-Salih has affirmed that some reports by the international community and the United Nations have praised the government's cooperation and its provision of food to those affected by the war, while other quarters have presented fabricated and untrustworthy reports accusing Sudan of things it is not involved in and describing the state's care for migrant and displaced people as coercive and forcible, despite the fact that they are being provided with the means to live a decent life. He said that this confirms the conspiracy against Sudan.

Dr. Abu-Salih said the Government of Sudan deals with the American Administration and not Congress, which is completely ignorant of what is going on in Sudan, namely changes toward handing over power to the people. His Excellency confirmed the country's adherence to its civilian orientation, from which no power can divert it.

On the other hand, Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, minister at the Federal Rule Office and the official spokesman of the government in the peace negotiations, declared that the forthcoming period will witness an extensive diplomatic and political move to clarify Sudan's stand towards the false claims by the representative of the UN secretary general concerning Sudan.

Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj explained that Western circles' escalation of the so-called terrorism and violation of human rights in Sudan was intended for the civilian orientation pursued by the country. [sentence as heard] He described the renewal of fighting between factions of the rebel movement as confirmation of the lack of seriousness of the movement's peace submissions, saying it is fighting for power.

UN Report on Human Rights Presents 'False Information'

EA2811203593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] The Sudan's press investigations reveal that (Caspar Pero's) report does not relate to the mission that has been appointed to him by the Human Rights Committee in Geneva. A reliable source indicated that the report presented false information and numbers. He said that Sudan's delegation, headed by the attorney general, 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu, when questioning the envoy, the envoy failed to explain his information according to any documents. Information from the United States assumed that Pero's report was prepared by two organizations, an American organization called Doctors Without Frontiers, which listed Sudan among the 10 most violent countries for human rights, and another organization called Africa Watch. The U.N., United States and Britain and some opposition circles and the outlaws have practiced severe pressures on Caspar Pero to present the report. It is to be recalled that Sudan's allegation refuted the allegations that have been presented by the said circles.

Voluntary Repatriation of Refugees To Begin

EA2811160093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum 28 Nov (SUNA)—Voluntary repatriation of about 300,000 refugees will start within the few

coming days by land and air in coordination with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and Sudan Government represented by the refugees commission from one side and the Ethiopian Government and the UNHCR office in Ethiopia on the other, said Dr. Ahmad Muhammad al-As, deputy refugees commissioner.

He pointed out in a statement to AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH of today that Sudan is now hosting 1,037,000 refugees from the neighbouring countries, 377,000 of them staying in camps and receiving centres. He added that the rest are distributed in the towns and dwelling centres. He pointed out that the U.N. and some donor agencies provided support for 40 percent of the refugees while Sudan Government provided support and services for 60 percent.

Commissioner Reports Attack on Relief Train in South

EA2811114393 Khartoum SUNA in English 0901 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Wau, South Sudan, 28 Nov (SUNA)—The outlaws movement has violated the lifeline relief agreement signed between the United Nations, Sudan Government and the outlaws factions to transport food to the war affected people in the southern states, said Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Aghbash, the assistant relief commissioner.

He explained to AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH daily newspaper of today the outlaws movement attacked last week a relief train loaded with foodstuff to the affected people and looted more than 150 tons of dhurrah [millet], 55 tons of oil and 300 sacks of lentils and some other materials.

He described this attack as a violation of international agreements and conventions concluded between the United Nations, Sudan Government and the outlaws factions.

He reaffirmed the government's adherence to transporting food to the affected in spite of the immoral atrocities of the outlaws.

He also explained that the refugees commission has officially lodged a protest with the UN office to Khartoum calling the United Nations to explain the attack by the outlaws against the relief train in Bahr al-Ghazal province.

Upper Nile State Governor Meets 'Rebel Delegation'

EA2611220593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] The governor of Upper Nile state, engineer Gwang Tonj, met with a delegation of rebels from the Nasir group headed by (Peter Rier Gwak). During the meeting, the governor of Upper Nile assured the rebel delegation that the amnesty declared by the salvation revolution to all the rebels is still binding. He said the current fight is not in the interest of the Sudanese people.

In another development, the Nasir rebel group announced that the previous negotiations with the government have paved the way for the strengthening of relations between them and the salvation government. The delegation assured the government that the Nasir group is confident of the government's intention to establish everlasting peace in the Sudan.

It is worth mentioning [that] the governor of Upper Nile state had recently paid a visit to (?Kwajok) accompanied by state ministers and high-ranking officials in Upper Nile. The governor and the accompanying delegation were highly welcomed by the people in the area. Addressing a rally at Fangak, Governor Gwang declared that the revolution welcomes all sons of the Sudan to participate in rebuilding what has been destroyed by the war, in addition to providing good living conditions for all returnees. At the end of his visit, the governor and the accompanying delegation inspected the school presented by humanitarian voluntary organizations in the area.

Vice President Visits Southern State

EA2611200093 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice president of the republic, yesterday paid a one-day visit to Bahr al-Ghazal state.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr praised the state's efforts in implementing the revolution's policies within the framework of the comprehensive national strategy and its drawing up of a program which contributed a great deal to achieving stability and development. The vice president of the republic confirmed that his visit to Wau town was to acquaint himself with the program of the government of Bahr al-Ghazal state in consolidating the pillars of federalism. His Excellency pointed out the federal government's earnest effort to secure roads between the southern states and other states to ensure security and stability. He affirmed the redivision of the states should take place in an ideal way.

During the visit, Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr also inspected the command of the Bahr al-Ghazal military zone and the headquarters of the state's police. He touched on the role of the police in the era of the National Salvation Revolution, pointing out that it had become a national body operating in all parts of the country. His Excellency also inspected the buildings of the Bahr al-Ghazal University and acquainted himself with progress in its performance. During his visit, he met the People's Committee for Salvation in Bahr al-Ghazal state and praised their concern for and appreciation of their responsibility. He inspected the people's defense forces open camp in Wau town, which includes specialized people, namely ministers, doctors and teachers and members of various other sectors.

Arrest of Party Leader Detailed

PM2911092393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Nov 93 pp1, 4

[Reports by Ahmad 'Uthman Jibril and 'Umar Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum and Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo: "Calls in Khartoum for Severance of Relations With the United States"]

[Excerpts] Professor Shakir al-Sarraj, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Sudanese National Assembly, has urged the Sudanese Government to sever its relations with the United States "because the U.S. ambassador treats Sudan as if it had no people." The Sudanese security authorities have accused Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy secretary general of the opposition Democratic Unionist Party, who is currently in detention, of establishing contacts with a foreign state "with the aim of fighting the authorities and undermining national security."

In Cairo, Egyptian officials have stressed that the meeting which is supposed to take place between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih "cannot possibly take place against the current background of escalation by the Sudanese authorities." They called for the urgent release of three Egyptians arrested by the Sudanese authorities two days ago. [passage omitted]

But the same sources said that "contacts are under way to hold a meeting between the two ministers and create the right atmosphere for its success." They emphasized that Cairo "does not wish to escalate and has not arrested any Sudanese living in Cairo." [passage omitted]

Mewanwhile, a Sudanese security official has stated that the deputy secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party, who worked as deputy prime minister, interior minister, and foreign minister in the government of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and who was arrested last week, faces charges of contacts with a foreign state which he did not name.

He said that the competent authorities had been monitoring contacts between al-Husayn and representatives of that unnamed state, and that "they have documents and evidence confirming these contacts which had the aim of fighting the authorities and undermining national security."

The source said that the speech made by al-Husayn at a seminar al-Ahliyah University in Omdurman "accelerated his arrest and interrogation over these charges." At that seminar, al-Husayn spoke about the government's failure to establish peace in the country. He was arrested the following day and so was his brother 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Husayn and Mahjub Muhammad 'Uthman, another leading party member, both of whom were at his house when he was arrested.

Relatives of al-Husayn have told AL-HAYAH that the al-Husayn's brother and 'Uthman were released some hours after their arrest.

The security source said that the authorities are in the process of taking al-Husayn's statements and will decide later whether to bring him to trial or release him.

Assembly Speaker Holds Discussions With Syrian Envoy

EA2611194893 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, met with the ambassador of the sisterly Syrian Arab Republic in Khartoum yesterday in his office at the assembly's headquarters.

The scope of developing bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries was reviewed during the meeting. The meeting also dealt with all issues in the Arab and international arenas. The meeting emphasized joint parliamentary action between the two countries. After the meeting, the ambassador explained that their views were identical on all issues concerning the two countries.

In reply to a question about the Syrian stand towards the Jericho-Gaza agreement, the ambassador first explained that his country's stand was clear and principled, and comprised an insistence on joint Arab action. He stated that any isolated action would be at the expense of the Arab nation. He added that Syria did not support the agreement, but that the matter concerned the Palestinians, and the brothers in Palestine decided what they wished. He explained that Syria was striving in the given situation to strengthen the Arab stand and push efforts to achieve legitimate Arab aims within legal and international frameworks and resolutions. On the unjust blockade against the fraternal Libyan people, the ambassador confirmed Syria's stand with the Libyan people against the blockade and the arbitrary measures imposed on it.

Assembly Speaker Praises Iraqi Relations

EA2811154593 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Nov (SUNA)—The speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, has spoken about giving preference to joint action in confronting the challenges facing the Arab and Islamic nations. He stated that there was a need for joint parliamentary action to lift the unfair blockade on fraternal Iraq, now that it has responded to the UN resolutions. This was stated when Khalifah received a letter from his Iraqi counterpart, Sa'kdi Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly. The letter was delivered to him yesterday by 'Abd-al-Samad Hamad 'Ali al-Ta'ish, Iraq's ambassador in Khartoum.

The letter contained a briefing on the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, as well as the suffering of the Iraqi people due to the unjust blockade imposed on it, the aim of which is to starve the Iraqi people. The letter also touched on the media campaign

against Iraq, which aims to distort its name internationally and prolong the blockade.

In a press statement Ambassador hamad praised Sudanese-Iraqi relations and the Iraqi people's appreciation of the stand of their Sudanese brothers.

Free Trade Zone To Be Opened in Port

EA2711160593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1610 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Nov (SUNA)—Advertising and information department director in the Sudanese company for free shops and areas (SCFA) Ahmed al-Tayyib has announced that 600 square kilometres was allocated in southern port Sudan town, eastern Sudan, to be a free trade area.

Second area in northern Khartoum state (20 square kilometres) was allocated in the same goal, the source said, noting that the first one was considered the biggest area in the world in this concern.

"The free areas are opening for both local and foreign companies to the investment in all fields", Ahmed al-Tayyib said, adding that the company aims at developing and activating of free shops to play its role.

He concluded that the company's future plans aim at increasing of foreign currencies by opening new exhibition.

GCC To Support UAE on Disputed Islands

PM2611164193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Nov 93 p 2

[Wafa'i Diyab report: "Unified Gulf Position Supportive of Emirates in Islands Issue"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Gulf officials in Abu Dhabi emphasized yesterday that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states are adopting a unified position on the dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran over the three islands [Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra]. And that a recommendation in this connection will be issued by the upcoming Gulf summit scheduled to be held in Riyadh on 20 December.

Officials said that the proposed recommendation is currently being studied and discussed and its final version will be referred to foreign ministers of the GCC states when they resume their meetings in Riyadh on 18 December.

At their recent meeting on 16 November the foreign ministers decided to leave their (current) 49th preparatory session open to complete the preparation of the Gulf summit's agenda.

Well-informed sources said that the ministers agreed to hold a meeting for their undersecretaries in the next few days to draft the political working papers to be submitted to the summit, including the recommendation relating to the three islands.

The sources add that the recommendation's broad outlines are based on urging Iran to rescind all the measures it has taken on Abu Musa island and to work to resolve the problem through negotiation and arbitration of international law and international legitimacy.

Gulf officials agree that the Iranian action vis-a-vis the islands, specifically Abu Musa island, is not limited to the existence of characteristics resembling an armed aggression, but is also an action which reflects an illegal regional change, be it in terms of harming the UAE's territorial integrity or exposing world security and peace to danger.

Officials stress that the actual exercise of sovereignty over the islands will eventually lead to recognizition of the authority of an aggressive state unless measures are taken to return the rights to their owners. This is why the UAE is currently taking all the legal and political steps to ensure there is not a recognition of the status quo policy and to prevent a temporary occupation from becoming a permanent occupation.

Gulf officials believe that any attempt by Iran to single out the UAE will be futile, because the GCC states are agreed in this connection and will not hesitate to taken any step that is bound to consolidate the UAE's right to the occupied islands. Gulf officials also stressed that these states are seeking to establish normal relations of good-neighborliness with Tehran based on mutual respect and noninterference in the internal affairs of one another. The officials added that the Iranian leadership is trying to split the Gulf position by making positive statements on its policy in the Gulf or by benefiting from the reactivation of some transient disputes between one state and another. But what is certain is that the GCC states will not allow Tehran to jump over Gulf waters, as such a development represents a fateful threat which requires a just response equal the challenge, whatever the results of the reasons.

Gulf diplomatic sources say that Iran rushed recent measures on Abu Musa island in an attempt to cushion domestic disputes and intercept the hard-line tendency, which has strongly returned to the political scene.

GCC Chief Urges EC To Drop Proposed Carbon Tax

JN2611085793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], this evening met with a delegation of the European parliamentary group for Arab-European cooperation, which is currently visiting Abu Dhabi.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY after the meeting, Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi said that he discussed with the delegation the efforts the group is making to promote Arab-European cooperation at the European Parliament, as well as the Arab boycott of Israel. Shaykh al-Qasimi noted that he explained to the delegation the Arab attitude toward the boycott issue, namely, that the boycott was instituted by a unanimous joint Arab decision, and that for it to be terminated, the reasons for instituting it must be removed. Moreover, a just, comprehensive, and durable settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict must be achieved, he argued.

Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi asked the European parliamentary group to explain the Arab attitude toward this issue to the EC and the European Parliament.

Al-Qasimi also stated that he discussed with the European delegation the role it could play in explaining GCC views toward the carbon tax proposal, as well as the need for dropping it because it adversely affects the GCC members' economies.

Kuwait

Iraqi Acceptance of UN Resolution Seen as Ploy

LD2811201493 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman al-Shahin, met today with the ambassadors of the nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council to convey Kuwait's view on Iraq's announcement that it

has agreed to implement Security Council Resolution 715 on long- term monitoring of armament production.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry has declared that Kuwait considers the submission of the Baghdad regime to Resolution 715, which comes after much procrastination and delay, merely as another attempt on the part of that regime to circumvent the remaining UN Security Council resolutions, which it is trying to evade.

The source added that the Iraqi regime understands what is required of it legally and politically, namely the full and complete implementation of all the resolutions, foremost Resolution 687 and Resolution 833 on the border demarcation, in compliance with the international will.

Yemen

Further on Kidnapping of USIS Official Mahoney

Delegation To Negotiate Release

NC2611205693 Paris AFP in English 1858 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Nov 26 (AFP)—Three armed tribesmen on Thursday night kidnapped the head of the U.S. Information Service in Yemen, Haynes Mahoney, in the capital Sanaa, Western diplomats said Friday.

Mahoney was abducted while driving his car in a residential area, bundled into another car and driven to Ma'rib, 200 kilometers (120 miles) east of Sanaa, the diplomats and police added.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has sent an official delegation to Ma'rib, an area where tribal and state authority often clash, to negotiate the U.S. diplomat's release, the diplomats said.

But the kidnappers had not presented their demands. Nor was it known to which tribe they belonged.

The government assured the U.S. Embassy here that it would make every effort to secure Mahoney's release, the diplomats said.

The Embassy meanwhile released a message recommending that all U.S. citizens in Yemen avoid unnecessary travel until the "situation is clarified."

A Western diplomat, who asked that his name not be used, said: "Mahoney was driving his car Thursday at 7:15 p.m. (1615 GMT) when three armed tribesmen forced him to get into theirs in a street of a residential area in Sanaa."

Mahoney is said to speak fluent Arabic and to know Yemen well.

It was the first abduction of a Western diplomat in the country since North and South Yemen were united in May 1990. [passage omitted]

In Washington, the State Department confirmed that Mahoney had been kidnapped while in his car.

"The U.S. Embassy is working closely with the Government of Yemen" to secure Mahoney's release, spokeswoman Maeve Dwyer [name as received] said.

Government Statement Issued

JN2611205793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] An official source of the Interior Ministry made the following statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA':

At 1950 Thursday 25 November, 1993 in al-Safiyah suburb, (al- Khurdun) street, in Sanaa, five unidentified gunmen in a small beige truck with Aden license plates stopped a 1991 model white sedan 1991—diplomatic corps No.7/28—which belongs to the director of the United States Information Service, Mr. Haynes Mahoney, an American national, and kidnapped him and his car.

Immediately, the command of the Interior Ministry gave instructions to chase the perpetrators and the truck.

At 0800 this morning, following investigations carried out by the security forces in Sanaa and Ma'rib Governorates, it was made certain that Mr. Haynes Mahoney is in the area of Jahm, in Ma'rib Governorate. There, the Interior Ministry command succeeded in finding the masterminds and perpetrators of the kidnapping. It was carried out by one of the area's shaykhs, who explained his actions by saying that he has demands for the government.

The responsible quarters in the area are currently embarking on steps to secure the release of Mr. Haynes Mahoney, recover his car, and implement the law.

The Interior Ministry regrets this incident, which distorts the Yemeni people's reputation for good treatment and defense of its foreigner guests, and calls on all honorable citizens to cooperate with the security forces to prevent the recurrence of such illegal actions. It also warns against escalating such provocative acts, which undermine the homeland's security and its international reputation.

Authorities Identify Kidnapper

NC2611210893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, 26 Nov (MENA)—A responsible source in the Yemeni Interior Ministry said today that authorities have uncovered the person who planned the kidnapping of an American working at the U.S. Information Service in Yemen today.

The source said that one of the shaykhs in the (Jabhamah) area of the Ma'rib Governorate planned the kidnapping, justifying his action that he has some demands on the [Yemeni] government.

The source affirmed that the responsible authorities in the area are making efforts to have the American released.

Police Surround Area Where Hostage Held

NC2711123493 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 27 Nov 93

[By 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari]

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 27 (AFP)—Police on Saturday surrounded a region east of Sanaa where armed tribesmen are holding the head of the U.S. Information Service in Yemen as President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih tried to secure his release.

Salih sent a delegation of tribal leaders to the Ma'rib district to negotiate with the kidnappers of Haynes Mahoney who is in his forties, Western diplomats said.

"Yemeni officials have assured the (U.S.) embassy that every effort will be made," to free Mahoney who is being held in Jahm, 70 kilometers (42 miles) east of the capital, they said.

Similarly, tribal leaders in the Ma'rib district have also been negotiating with the kidnappers, an interior ministry source said Saturday.

The ministry has "a definite plan to save the diplomat" in the event mediation efforts fail, he said giving no details.

Five armed men on Thursday grabbed Mahoney while he was driving his car in a residential area of Sanaa, forced him into their car and drove off to Ma'rib to put pressure on the Yemeni government to resolve a dispute with their tribe, Western diplomats said.

On Saturday a ministry source identified the abductors' chief as Mubarak Salih Mashan al-Zayidi, a member of the Jahm tribe, adding that he sought "to pressure the government in a personal affair concerning bonuses and sums of money it had promised," but failed to deliver.

In Washington, the State Department confirmed Mahoney had been abducted and said the U.S. embassy was working closely with the Yemeni government to secure his release.

Mahoney is said to speak fluent Arabic which he studied in Egypt in 1991 and to know Yemen well. He also served in Damascus in the 1980s and his wife is an Armenian from Syria, U.S. diplomats told AFP in Nicosia.

The Ma'rib region, where several Westerners have been kidnapped, is run by local tribes who have taken over control of the area.

The U.S. embassy here recommended that all U.S. citizens in Yemen avoid unnecessary travel until the "situation is clarified."

Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil, quoted Saturday by the London-based Arabic-language daily Al-Hayat said Mahoney's abduction was not politically motivated and that it was impossible to link the matter to the crisis currently rocking the country "since the chief kidnapper has financial claims."

He did not dismiss the possibility the kidnapper would exploit the crisis to put pressure on the government.

Mahoney's abduction was the first of a Western diplomat in the country since North and South Yemen were united in May 1990.

In April 1992, a gunman held the Saudi ambassador, Ali Muhammad al-Qadayfi, hostage for 15 hours and demanded a million dollars in ransom for his release. The kidnapper was arrested and sentenced to three years in jail.

Several employees of Western oil firms, notably the U.S. Hunt Oil Company, have been abducted this year by armed members of Yemeni tribes.

Yemen has also been in a political crisis since August with opposition between the north and the south, highlighted by rivalry between Salih and his Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Al-Bid is staying in Aden, the capital of the former South Yemen.

On Monday, al-Bid was visited by the U.S. ambassador to Yemen, Arthur Hughes, who delivered a message urging a peaceful and democratic settlement to the feud between the two leaders. Hughes had delivered a similar message to Salih.

Tribal Source: Mahoney To Be Freed Soon

NC2711190793 Bshamun Future Television Network in Arabic 1825 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] The USIS director in Sanaa who was kidnapped two days ago will be released soon. This statement was made by a tribal Yemeni source close to the negotiations between the Yemeni authorities and a chieftain of the Jahm tribe, which is behind the kidnapping.

Parliamentary Speaker Joins Efforts

NC2811134793 Paris AFP in English 1323 GMT 28 Nov 93

[By 'Abd-al-Rahman Haydari]

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 28 (AFP)—Yemen's parliamentary speaker has joined senior government officials in a bid to secure the release of the head of the U.S. Information Service in Yemen, sources close to the speaker told AFP on Sunday [28 November].

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the leader of the powerful Hashid tribe, is taking part in mediation efforts to free Haynes Mahoney who was kidnapped in a residential part of Sanaa on Thursday by armed tribesmen at odds with the government over oil royalties.

Five armed men grabbed Mahoney while he was driving his car, forced him into their car and drove off to Ma'rib to put pressure on the Yemeni government to resolve a dispute with their tribe, Western diplomats had said.

Shaykh al-Ahmar, noted for his influence and power in a country notorious for its tribal structure, is mediating with the tribe holding Mahoney in the Ma'rib district community of Jihm, 70 kilometers (42 miles) east of the capital. The sources said a tribal meeting was scheduled there for midday Sunday.

A U.S. embassy source told AFP "Mahoney is still in captivity."

On Saturday an interior ministry source identified the abductors' chief as Mubarak Salih Mashan al-Zayidi, a member of the Jihm tribe, who sought "to pressure the government in a personal affair concerning bonuses and sums of money it had promised," but failed to deliver.

A Western diplomat said al-Zayidi wanted payment of royalties from the government and the U.S. Hunt Oil Company for the installation of a pumping station on his tribe's land.

Hunt Oil is one of the major U.S. firms operating in Yemen's oil- rich zone, where production stands at some 320,000 barrels a day.

In May, two American engineers working for Hunt were held hostage for five days by a tribe from the Ma'rib region, the Daham, over a criminal case.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is also trying to secure the release of Mahoney, who is in his forties, and on Friday sent a delegation of tribal leaders to the Ma'rib district to negotiate with the kidnappers.

"We have nothing new about him. We continue to cooperate with local authorities," a U.S. embassy source said.

"The situation hasn't changed and security forces continue to surround the area where Mahoney is being held," a Yemeni member of parliament from the Ma'rib region told AFP.

The interior ministry had said that "a definite plan to save the diplomat" had been devised in the event that mediation efforts failed.

Mahoney, who studied Arabic in Egypt in 1991, also served in Damascus in the 1980s and his wife is an Armenian from Syria.

His abduction was the first of a Western diplomat in the country since North and South Yemen were united in May 1990.

Several employees of Western oil firms, notably Hunt Oil, have been abducted this year by armed members of Yemeni tribes.

Yemen has also been in a political crisis since August with opposition between the north and the south, highlighted by rivalry between Salih and his Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Al-Bid is staying in Aden, the capital of the former South Yemen.

Last Monday, al-Bid was visited by the U.S. ambassador to Yemen, Arthur Hughes, who delivered a message urging a peaceful and democratic settlement to the feud between the two leaders. Hughes had delivered a similar message to Salih.

Bid To Free Mahoney 'Facing Difficulties'

JN2811171793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1620 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Yemeni sources said today that efforts to secure the release of a U.S. diplomat kinapped in Yemen four days ago are facing difficulties, but progress that may lead to his release today or tomorrow cannot be ruled out.

The sources said the kidnappers presented financial demands to the government and the U.S. Hunt Oil Company, which operates in the area. The sources stressed that the kidnapping has no political context.

Five gunmen abducted Haynes Mahoney, head of the U.S. Information Service in Sanaa last Thursday, and moved him to Ma'rib area, to the east of Sanaa.

Tribe Drops Demand for Oil Royalties

NC2811221493 Paris AFP in English 2022 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 28 (AFP)—Hopes rose Sunday for the release of U.S. diplomat Haynes Mahoney held hostage in Yemen after his kidnappers dropped their demand for oil royalties, a source close to the government said.

He said Mahoney, head of the U.S. Information Service in Yemen, could be freed "within hours."

Mubarak Salih Mushin al-Zaydi, chief of the tribe allegedly holding the diplomat, has dropped his demands but wants a guarantee that he will not be prosecuted, the source said, asking not be named.

"The authorities have however rejected the request of the kidnapper and are determined to make him pay for his action," he said.

The speaker of parliament, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, is taking part in mediation efforts to free Mahoney who was kidnapped in Sanaa on Thursday by armed tribesmen.

Five men grabbed Mahoney while he was driving his car, forced him into their car and drove off to Jihm, 70

kilometres (40 miles) east of the capital. The security forces have since surrounded the kidnappers.

A Western diplomat said al-Zaydi wanted payment of royalties from the government and the U.S. Hunt Oil Company for the installation of a pumping station on his tribe's land.

Mahoney Said 'Intelligence' Man

JN2911133893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, 29 Nov (INA)——The U.S. Embassy in Sanaa has refused to comment on the kidnapping of U.S. diplomat Haynes Mahoney, the U.S. cultural attache who was kidnapped by Yemeni gunmen last Thursday in Sanaa.

Press reports in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, said Mahoney is still held by his captors, and that negotiations to secure his release have not yet reached any definitive result.

In its today's issue, the Yemeni newspaper AL-MUSTAQBAL said the U.S. Embassy is not disclosing the demands which the captors made in return for the release of U.S. diplomat Haynes Mahoney, who was described by diplomatic sources as the chief of the U.S. Information Service, which is charged with U.S. intelligence affairs in Yemen.

Mahoney organizes monthly visits to the United States for Yemeni journalists and intellectuals. He also arranges trips to Yemen by foreign tourist groups.

The press reports said that the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa has emphasized that Mahoney is still in captivity and that he refused to make any statement about his abduction, which took place last Thursday by gunmen loyal to a shaykh from Ma'rib Governorate, 200 km east of Sanaa. He was taken to the area along with his car.

A Yemeni Interior Ministry source said last Friday that the security authorities chased the culprits, and it was proved that Mahoney was abducted by a shaykh who is demanding the payment of royalties before releasing Mahoney, in return for the exploitation of his land by the U.S. oil companies that are prospecting for oil in the Ma'rib Governorate.

In May this year, Yemeni tribal gunmen kidnapped U.S. engineers working for the U.S. Hunt Oil Company to exchange them with some members of the tribe accused of murders.

It is worth mentioning that on 14 November this year, the deputy U.S. cultural attache in Sanaa was beaten up by an armed Yemeni group, which ambushed him in an area some 25 km from the capital Sanaa, on the main highway between Sanaa and Ta'izz Governorate.

Al-'Attas Receives UK Official, Letter for Salih

JN2711134293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas received Mark Elliott, assistant to the British deputy secretary of state for Middle Eastern and African affairs, at noon today.

During the meeting, the British official handed to the brother prime minister a letter to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, from the British Government expressing the hope for solutions to current problems through discussion and dialogue. The two officials also discussed the ties of bilateral cooperation and ways of promoting and expanding them in the interest of the Yemeni and British peoples.

The meeting was attended by brother Ahmad [name indistinct], under secretary of the Foreign Ministry for political affairs, and Douglas Gordon, British ambassador in Sanaa.

Foreign Minister on Domestic 'Crisis'

NC2711204193 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 21 Nov 93 p 2

[Interview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by Muhammad Matare in Sanaa—date not given]

[Text] [Matary] As the political crisis worsens in Yemen, there are reports that troops have been deployed in a number of governorates, particularly along the dividing line between the former North and South Yemens. How true are these reports?

[Basindwah] Those reports are exaggerated and incorrect. Parliamentary committees are currently trying various methods to resolve the crisis. These committees are authorized to remove any newly-created military positions. There are efforts at the highest level to avoid any escalation.

[Matar] But the situation remains suspended between two possibilities—secession and explosion. Some consider it may culminate in a military confrontation. Can you comment on this?

[Basindwah] Either secession or an explosion would be catastrophic. We all agree on the need to avert catastrophe. The political crisis will not develop into a military crisis. Military tension does not create solutions; it could only lead us to an impasse.

[Matar] Some observers say that the volatile situation in Aden, both politically and security-wise, was behind the fact that the cabinet met in that city a few days ago. This was the first time such a meeting was held in Aden since the country's unification. It was held under tight security. Can you comment on that?

[Basindwah] A cabinet meeting in Aden is a normal matter and should not raise any questions. This is particularly true because an agreement has been reached to move the entire government to Aden in winter. Aden is the economic and commercial capital of the country. It was there that the unity accords were signed in November 1989 and the establishment of a united Yemen was announced in 1990. No extraordinary security measures were taken during the meeting. The situation was normal.

[Matar] The recent cabinet meeting ended with the formation of a ministerial committee tasked with calming down the situation. Some believe that the crisis is getting out of hand and predict the failure of that committee. Do you agree with this assessment?

[Basindwah] The cabinet instructed the said committee to take the ideas expressed during its meeting and use them to create a suitable atmosphere for resolving the existing differences. There are signs that the committee will succeed in its work. We do not deny that there are differences of opinion, but these are not getting out of control, contrary to what is being said. There are efforts under way; and reconciliation will take some time. Tensions will disappear as soon as a dialogue gets underway. The situation will get back to normal.

[Matar] In the past few days, various Yemeni parties have begun to call for a dialogue. This followed a period of squabbles and military measures. Has there been a change of heart in the country because of foreign pressure? I am referring here to the recent statement by the U.S. Department of State, in which it expressed concern about its interests in Yemen, as well as to Arab mediation aimed at ending the crisis?

[Basindwah] The Yemeni Government welcomed the U.S. statement because that statement was balanced and got to the heart of the problem by coming out in support of unity and democracy. The U.S. statement pointed out that both Yemens are determined to create new institutions, expand popular participation, achieve stability, and resolve problems through peaceful means.

We do not oppose mediation and special initiatives aimed at resolving the current differences, so long as these do not involve interference in our domestic affairs. However, it is time-consuming for Arabs and foreigners to grasp the nature of the Yemeni problem and make proposals for solving it. Therefore the Yemenis, more than any time before, are obliged to take the lead in finding common ground on which to resolve their own differences.

[Matar] Some believe due to the current crisis there is a need to resurrect old plans, such as for a confederation, federation, or even secession. Do you believe such plans are plausible?

[Basindwah] None of these ideas are conceivable, because what we have done is a historic achievement. Any retreat from it will harm its value and its historic, unionist social dimensions. Complications and mistakes can be resolved through dialogue. Secession, showdowns, and the old plans are not to be discussed under any circumstances.

[Matar] Following Yemeni unification, the government announced a plan to cut the size of the armed forces. The political leadership then declared that the issue of unifying the army comes within the framework of the rebuilding the armed forces. So far, the second task has not been implemented. There is talk that certain elements oppose the army's unification. What is your view?

[Basindwah] Regarding the first point, national interests dictated those decisions in the light of our weak economic conditions. Moreover, no longer were there any external dangers to justify the maintenance of huge armed forces after the merger of the two parts and the completion of unity. Regarding the second point, we believe that just as the other state departments were combined, the Army and the Security Department must also be unified. This is a national responsibility and is part of the government's program. I don't believe that there are centers of power that have any interest in keeping the Army disunited. This issue is in the homeland's interest and therefore it is a national responsibility for which all must work.

[Matar] Yemen has settled its border dispute with the Sultanate of Oman. Meanwhile, its border dispute with Saudi Arabia remains unresolved. What is the status of the border talks with Saudi Arabia? How are Yemen's relations with the Arab states, particularly with the Gulf states?

[Basindwah] The agreement on the demarcation of the border with the Sultanate of Oman is of great political significance on the local and international levels. It has proved the possibility of holding talks and of peaceful coexistence. It has enhanced Yemen's status by showing it is able to deal with a very complicated international issue, namely the border problem. It has resulted in the establishment of a free trade zone between the two countries. Regarding the border with Saudi Arabia, there are talks between the two countries. What causes optimism is that the two fraternal peoples sincerely want these talks to be crowned with satisfactory results. Regarding Arab relations, we are seriously working to reunifying Arab ranks.

[Matar] What about Egyptian-Yemeni relations at present?

[Basindwah] For our part, we aspire to develop our relations with Egypt to the maximum. Relations with eldest sister Egypt are of particular importance because they are a practical factor in putting the regional and Arab house in order. The Egyptian-Yemeni Committee will meet in Cairo soon with an agenda full of development projects and technical and cultural cooperation. During my recent visit to Cairo I conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from his brother Yemeni

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with bilateral cooperation. We affirm the Yemeni people's amity and loyalty for Egypt.

Salih Praises Ministry Efforts To Combat Crime

JN2511191393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today visited the Ministry of Interior where he was received by brother Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil, the minister of interior; Colonel Hassan Husayn, the deputy minister of interior; and the command staff of the Ministry of Interior. The brother president was briefed on the efforts, activities, and plans of the ministry and its various departments to carry out the security plans (?to achieve) security and peace in the society, to combat crime and all its manifestations that undermine security, and to pursue and arrest the criminals, bandits, and outlaws.

The brother president delivered a speech in which he first praised the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Interior in shouldering its tasks and missions and the success it has achieved during the recent past in combating crime and acts undermining security and stability in the country.

The brother president said: We hope that (?these efforts) will continue with the same determination and vigor to uproot crimes in our country, deter criminals, and put an end to all security problems, whether they are political or [word indistinct]. You should relentlessly confront criminals, killers, and outlaws. Have no mercy on any criminal, killer, or outlaw no matter who he is or where he is. He noted some security events that took place in our country.

The president said that lenience with the criminals will encourage them and increase crimes. He added: The Interior Ministry command staff and all security departments should always be vigilant and at a high level of readiness and national awareness. Addressing the Interior Ministry command staff, the brother president said: You [words indistinct] should side with the homeland's security first. You should also be a faithful guard of the people's gains, achievements, and security. You should carry out your duties with a high national spirit for the sake of the homeland's safety [words indistinct]. We, in the Presidential Council, stand at your side and will not hesitate in giving you any support. Your success in your tasks will give the Presidential Council and the masses a strong motive to stand at your side and cooperate with you to achieve greater success. Be at the side of the homeland, and we, together with the people, will be at your side.

The brother president reaffirmed the need to implement law and order on all, not to be lenient with anyone who undermines security and stability, and to follow the current policy of deterrence toward all criminal manifestations that undermine security and peace in the society.

Political Parties Meeting Postponed Indefinitely

NC2811154693 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 28 (AFP)—Yemen's major political parties have postponed indefinitely a meeting to resolve a crisis between north and south over decentralization of the country, officials said here Sunday.

A spokesman for President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih told AFP the president's General People's Congress (GPC) party wanted time to establish whether statements on federalism made by an official of the rival Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) from the south reflected "a personal opinion or that of the party."

He said any date for the talks, originally due to start Saturday, would depend on the YSP's explanation.

The meeting was to help settle differences between Salih and his southern rival Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who heads the YSP.

Since August 19 al-Bid has refused to leave the port city of Aden, demanding political and economic decentralization.

YSP deputy leader Salim Salih Muhammad on Saturday proposed a federal system in Yemen, as an alternative to the 1990 reunification, but the GPC rejected the proposal, describing it as an attempt at secession.

However, Muhammad told AFP federalism must be "within the framework of a united Yemen."

"The YSP wants an administrative restructuring of the country to create three to four provinces, with each responsible for its own development and internal security," he said.

He said a federal system would guarantee a fair allocation of national wealth.

On Monday Salih agreed to al-Bid's demands for broader talks to resolve the feud, to include labor leaders, professionals and other figures from north and south.

Regional loyalties are strong in Yemen and the armies of the two former rival states have not been merged into a single national army since reunification.

Hijacked Iranian Plane Lands in al-Basrah

JN2911120493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] An Iranian civilian Fokker-27 plane made an emergency landing at al-Basrah airport at 0945 [0845 GMT] today. The Iraqi News Agency [INA] has learned that the Iranian plane was hijacked while on a domestic flight in Iran. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry contacted the Iranian side for coordination purposes after it had requested the competent Iraqi authorities to allow the hijacked plane to land at an Iraqi airport for fear of running out of fuel. The Iraqi authorities allowed the plane, which was en route from Ahvaz to Abadan, to land at al-Basrah airport.

INA has also learned that al-Basrah airport authorities are holding negotiations with the plane hijacker in order to secure the release of its passengers.

Hijacker Surrenders, Asks for Asylum

JN2911140293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Al-Basrah, 29 Nov (INA)—The hijacker of the Iranian aircraft, which made an emergency landing at al-Basrah Airport this morning, gave himself up to Iraqi authorities at 1545 [1245 GMT] today.

INA has learned that the Iranian plane's hijacker has asked for political asylum for himself and his family, which was with him on the plane, in Iraq or any other country.

The hijacked Iranian civilian Fokker-27 plane, which was on a domestic flight in Iran, made an emergency landing at al-Basrah airport in southern Iraq at 0945 today.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry contacted the Iranian side for coordination purposes and the Iranian side requested the competent Iraqi authorities to allow the hijacked plane to land at an Iraqi airport lest it should run out of fuel. The Iraqi authorities allowed the plane, which was en route from Ahvaz to Abadan, to land at al-Basrah airport.

Earlier today, authorities at al-Basrah Airport held negotiations with the hijacker to secure the release of the passengers.

The hijacker has with him his family, which consists of his wife and five children.

Letter Accepts Long-Term Monitoring of Weapons

NC2611180893 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] United Nations, Nov 26 (AFP)—Iraq has accepted the long-term monitoring of its weapons of mass destruction, according to Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

In a letter addressed to the U.N. Security Council, the minister said he hoped the move would lead to the immediate lifting of oil and arms embargo imposed against Baghdad in 1990.

INA Reports 'Aziz Meets Ekeus

JN2711123793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1201 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] United Nations, 27 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, met in New York yesterday, Friday, with Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission.

The meeting, which is the second between Tariq 'Aziz and Amb. Rolf Ekeus this week, comes after the head of the Special Commission received a copy of Iraq's message to UN Security Council president relating Iraq's approval of Resolution 715 in accordance with a formula that guarantees Iraq's interests and the safety of its territory and economy.

An INA correspondent in New York said that the meeting, which was held where Tariq 'Aziz's is staying, was attended by Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid from the Military industrialization Organization; Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, undre secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations.

Also taking part in the meeting from the Special Commission were legal adviser John Scott, media spokesman Tim Trevan [name as received], and the representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency at the United Nations.

Following the meeting, Ambassador Ekeus told journalists outside the residence of Amb. Nizar Hamdun: We have agreed to meet again on Monday. And I hope that we will arrive at the formula of the final joint report to the UN Security Council.

The talks with Lt. Gen. 'Amir Rashid will be concluded on Monday.

Assembly Speaker Skeptical on Lifting of Embargo

NC2011125493 Paris AFP in English 1237 GMT 20 Nov 93

[By Florence Biedermann]

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 20 (AFP)—The speaker of the Iraqi parliament, Muhammad Mahdi Salih, said Sunday [28 November] he doubted whether the U.N. embargo on Iraq would be lifted soon, and accused Western nations of trying to prolong it.

"From a legal and moral standpoint, the embargo no longer has a reason to exist. But there are other factors intervening to make it last," Salih told AFP, referring to the sanctions imposed after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

"That is why we doubt the credibility of certain countries, like the United States and Britain," he added.

Iraqi and U.N. officials said Friday that Baghdad had agreed to long-term monitoring of the country's chemical, nuclear and armament programs, removing a major obstacle to lifting the U.N. embargo on Iraqi oil sales.

In a letter to the Security Council, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf agreed to the long-term monitoring and urged the council to lift the sanctions.

He voiced hope that the Security Council would respond to the Iraqi initiative by immediately implementing paragraph 22 of U.N. resolution 687, which called for the embargo to be lifted once it was determined Iraq had honored its agreement to destroy all weapons of mass destruction.

Salih meanwhile said the minimum six-month period required by the United Nations to test Iraq's compliance was "long and useless."

"Three years and four months for an embargo is ample. There is no point in making it drag on uselessly—that contradicts the U.N. charter," he said.

Diplomatic sources at the U.N. said Iraq's pledge to honor its agreements may not be enough to convince the Security Council to lift the oil embargo in the near future.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has been in New York since last Sunday to plead for the lifting of sanctions, and accused the United States on Saturday of blocking such a measure.

Asked about the new Iraqi-Kuwaiti border drawn up by the U.N., which Baghdad contests, Salih said it was "an injustice against Iraq."

"It would be better to settle border disputes through negotiations, not via decisions imposed by force," he said. "If the U.N. Security Council wants to avert problems, it must rely on existing rules to resolve border disputes between countries, or else leave this matter to the Arab League."

Iraq's acceptance of the new border with Kuwait, giving the emirate an extra strip of land 600 meters (yards) wide, is one of the conditions for the lifting of sanctions.

There have been several skirmishes along the disputed border since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991. The United Nations approved the new frontier in May.

Opposition Terms Monitoring Agreement 'Ploy'

AU2811152593 Paris AFP in English 0413 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Budapest, Nov 28 (AFP)—Iraq's agreement to allow the UN to monitor its weapons of mass destruction was a ploy to "buy time" prior to unleashing a fresh wave of internal repression, members of the Iraqi opposition in exile said Saturday.

"We do not believe they would keep this promise" to allow the United Nations Security Council to monitor the weapons and their installations on a long-term basis, Iraqi National Congress (INC) spokesman Salah al-Shaykhly told AFP here.

"They are only trying to buy time until the regime has sufficient power to rearm itself and bring back mass repression," al-Shaykhly added.

He said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had agreed to the monitoring to secure a lifting of sanctions imposed by the UN in 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, and thereby "gain acceptance in the world community."

Al-Shaykhly admitted Iraq's agreement, which was given Friday, was "very significant." But he charged that 80 percent of Iraq's military industry was "up and working" and that pro-Saddam newspapers had reported the development of new hardware including training aircraft, a lightweight personal arms carrier and a 150-kilometre short range missile inside Iraq.

Members of the INC delegation added that they handed over evidence that the Iraqi army had recently fired chemical weapons. They said they had passed a piece of a shell and reports by a military commander and by medical experts to UN personnel.

Shells, which according to witnesses "smelled like rotten apples" and could have been the deadly gas phosgene, were fired in the southern Iraqi marshlands at the end of September, the delegates said.

They also alleged that Iraq was continuing to produce military electronics in secret in various factories, which were officially privatised about six weeks ago but were all bought up by members of Saddam's family.

Al-Shaykhly warned that there was no guarantee that Saddam would buy food and medical supplies for the Iraqi people if the international community allowed him to sell oil.

"He will abide only until the point when he gets back to the international community. When he manages to break the lock, he will go back to the same old methods and bypass his pledges," al-Shaykhly said.

The INC is an umbrella organisation covering of 90 percent of Iraq's opposition parties and based in Arbil, Kurdistan, with offices in London. It plans to lobby permanent members of the UN Security Council for support against Saddam. But Al-Shaykhly added that the

INC expected China to react unfavourably to a request for support against reported Iraqi human rights abuses.

He also predicted an unfavourable response from France, which he said wanted "lucrative oil deals, oil concessions in southern Iraq and a quick repayment of Iraq's debt of between 15 million and 20 million dollars".

The INC delegation was in Budapest for a three-day conference of the Liberal International.

Earlier Saturday in New York Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz accused the United States of blocking the lifting of a UN embargo on Iraqi oil after Baghdad met the monitoring demand.

"The major obstacle (to lifting sanctions) is the position of the American administration," 'Aziz said in a television interview.

Paper Tells Kuwait Rulers Protection Cannot Last

JN2711105093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0923 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that the joint military exercises being organized by the rulers imposed on Kuwait will not free them of the specter of fear about the future.

In an article today under the headline "The Rulers of Kuwait and the Imported Muscles," the paper says that those rulers must be deluding themselves if they believe that these exercises will provide protection for their uncertain existence as rulers whose survival depends on foreign troops.

The paper adds that the rulers of Kuwait have been rushing to Western capitals to sign military agreements and organize paid-for joint military exercises. They successively organized military exercises with U.S., British, and French troops. The paper says that this is ironic and that any Arab citizen would scoff at those agent rulers who are looking for artificial muscles.

The paper continues: If the current international situation tends to provide protection for the agent rulers in Kuwait, things must change and there will be a day when such protection is no longer provided for the rulers of Kuwait. Then, things will be decided in due course.

Concluding its article, the paper says that the joint exercises are an unsuccessful attempt to use imaginary imported muscles by phobic and paranoid people.

BABIL Regrets 'Hasty, Negative' U.S. Attitude

JN2911105193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—BABIL has strongly criticized the hasty, negative U.S. attitude toward a letter addressed to the Security Council outlining Iraq's response to international resolutions. The paper accuses Washington of trying to thwart Iraq's initiative.

In its editorial today, BABIL says the U.S. State Department's official statement reflects a premeditated position and does not indicative an objective assessment and careful examination.

The paper adds that the U.S. statement did not wait for the opinion of the international body that is concerned with this business. The U.S. statement is suggestive and tries to impose its views on the other parties.

BABIL regrets this hasty, negative U.S. attitude toward Iraq's letter. The paper accuses the United States of trying to prevent the letter from addressing the situation between Iraq and the United Nations.

The paper says the U.S. reaction could have been different had the United States shown some objectivity and rational thinking. It seems, however, that a fear complex and an obsessive feeling of retreat are still governing U.S. policy toward Iraq.

The paper sees the negative U.S. attitude as an attempt to enhance its image and protect its role and allies in the region.

'First' Foreign Merchant Ship Arrives at Port

JN2611203193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Umm Qasr Port, 26 Nov (INA)—The first foreign merchant ship anchored at the Umm Qasr Port in the al-Basrah Governorate today. The ship is carrying foodstuffs imported for the Ministry of Trade.

An INA correspondent at the Umm Qasr Port said that the merchant ship, Tikos [name as received], which flies a Cypriot flag, is carrying very large quantities of sugar.

The arrival of the ship today means that the Umm Qasr Port has resumed its ordinary work of receiving and unloading merchant ships, which will continue to carry commodities to Iraq via the Umm Qasr Port.

The Cypriot ship was unloaded in trucks belonging to the ministries of trade and transport.

The trade and transport ministers received the ship and supervised its unloading.

'Source' Denies 'Aziz Meeting With Israeli

JN2811134993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1236 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi source in Paris today denied the reports propagated by the Zionist entity's radio, citing YEDI'OT AHARONOT daily, that Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with an Israeli Foreign Ministry official in Paris two weeks ago.

In a press statement, the source said that these reports are fabricated and unfounded, and are a wicked Israeli attempt to distort Iraq's reputation.

Sources Reject 'Arafat Remarks on 'Dead End'

TA2711184693 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Excerpts] The talks with Israel have reached a dead end, Yasir 'Arafat said at a news conference in Stockholm today. [passage omitted]

Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen notes that senior political sources in Jerusalem tonight confirmed that grave problems remain unresolved in the negotiations with the Palestinians. According to the sources, the disagreements revolve around the size of the Jericho area, control of border crossing points, the prisoner release issue, and the modalities of the transfer of civilian powers.

The sources added, however, that the negotiations were not at an impasse, and the Palestinians had been expected to step up the tone of their statements in anticipation of Warren Christopher's arrival in the region.

A senior political source tonight summed up by saying that many more crises will arise before 13 December, but as in many labor conflicts, they will be resolved at the last moment.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 27 November adds in reaction to Yasir 'Arafat's remarks, that "senior political sources in Jerusalem have said they were convinced that the talks with the PLO would continue in Cairo, and that accord will be achieved." The sources are further cited as saying that "we must not be flustered by 'Arafat's remarks, as it is only natural for such tensions and declarations to arise during negotiations, and even more so with the talks deadline being so close."]

Rabin, 'Arafat Summit Said 'Inevitable'

TA2811112393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 93 pp A1, A6

[Pool report]

[Excerpts] Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes there will be a crisis in the Israeli-PLO talks. In conversations with his associates, the prime minister has been saying recently that the talks are in a difficult state mainly due to the absence of a partner to conclude things. Rabin believes there are still many serious problems and the gap between the parties's stands on them is very large.

Despite this, all the political sources are saying that Rabin is determined to attain an agreement on Palestinian self-government in Gaza and Jericho, even if this takes place after 13 December, the date set in the agreement of principles for the implementation of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal. The prime minister believes that an agreement with the Palestinians will eventually be made.

Sources at the prime minister's bureau last night said the complaints made yesterday by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and by Nabil Sha'th, the head of the Palestinian delegation, that the talks have reached an impasse, are considered attempts to "impose pressure" and are a "show of force." The sources believe that 'Arafat is, in practice, "lowering the expectations" of the Palestinian public in preparation for the crucial stage of the negotiations.

Although no official contacts have been held yet, Israeli negotiators and senior political sources believe that a summit meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat is inevitable, if agreement on the main points is to be made.

Rabin is leaving tomorrow on a 3-day working tour to London Brussels, Paris, Bonn, and Rome. He will hold meetings with the heads of the European states, and ask them to expedite the aid to the territories. On 1 December, Rabin will address the European Parliament. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 28 November carries a page-7 report by Eliyahu Zehavi in Copenhagen, Yo'av Kaspi, and Eldad Beck adding: "Reacting to the remarks by 'Arafat on the impasse in the peace talks, a senior defense establishment source said last night that 'the Palestinians are facing a serious internal problem. They are using a tactic of issuing declarations and creating crises to solve their domestic problem.' Over the past several days, members of the Israeli delegation for the talks on the implementation of the autonomy arrangements in Gaza and Jericho have been expressing unease and displeasure. According to them, the Palestinians have difficulties in advancing the talks, and thus create a feeling of crisis to extort additional concessions from Israel, beyond those already made over the past several weeks.

["According to another senior defense source, 'over the past several days, 'Arafat has been under a lot of pressure. He is conducting the talks completely alone, guiding them from a distance—which makes progress and compromises in the talks very difficult.'"]

Anticipating U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival to the Middle East, political sources have reported that Syrian President al-Asad told European diplomats he met recently that Israel must first commit itself to a full withdrawal and that later he will agree to give a detailed account of the nature of peace as he sees it.

Al-Asad's guests outlined the Israeli concept of peace, which includes full normalization and the establishment of diplomatic relations. Al-Asad did not comment on this, and some in Jerusalem view this as a "tacit agreement."

It was further reported that Jordanian sources have recently reiterated their willingness to make practical progress in their talks with Israel. At the same time, they

expressed their opposition to establish full peace, before "a comprehensive peace" is attained. Jerusalem interprets the Jordanian utterances to mean that Jordan would like to see progress on the Syrian track, before it agrees to sign a public accord with Israel.

Jerusalem expects Christopher to attempt to revive the negotiations between Israel and Syria. In any event, he will offer Syria steps on the U.S.-Syrian level to make sure al-Asad does not take steps against progress on the Israeli-Jordanian and the Israeli-Palestinian tracks. [passage omitted]

[Writing on page 8 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 28 November, Amnon Barzilay adds: "King Husayn is willing to consider opening the border with Israel even before signing a peace agreement with it. The open border crossing will be on the Jordan River bridges, and the roads to it will pass through the area of the Palestinian autonomy in Jericho.

["Reports citing the Jordanian king's stand have reached Jerusalem from European leaders who spoke to him recently. Husayn told his interlocutors that the open border between the two countries could pass through the self-government area of Jericho, in the region where the two major crossings are located: the Allenby and the Damiya Jordan River Bridges. The king explained that, in making such an arrangement, Jordan will be able to deliver its commitment not to make a peace agreement, but to make significant steps toward normalization even before an agreement between the two countries is signed."]

Rabin, Christopher To Meet in Brussels 30 Nov

TA2811075993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will apparently meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Tuesday [30 November] in Brussels. According to one of the assessments the aim of this meeting will be to attain an Israeli-American understanding regarding the Palestinian issue, so that during his shuttle Christopher will be able to concentrate on the Syrian issue. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

The possibility of a meeting between Secretary of State Christopher and Prime Minister Rabin cropped up only this weekend. The Americans are interested in being briefed about the recent developments in the negotiations with the Palestinians, even before the secretary of state arrives in the Middle East in five days. For this reason they decided to hold the meeting with Rabin in Brussels. Rabin's aides managed only with difficulty to find an empty space in Rabin's tight itinerary for his three day trip to five European countries.

According to one of the assessments Christopher wants to arrive at an understanding with Rabin on the Palestinian issue so that the main effort of his shuttle mission would be devoted to the Israeli- Syrian track.

There is another person currently touring Europe who is eager for a meeting with Rabin—Yasir 'Arafat. Sources in Jerusalem say that his desire for a meeting with Rabin was what caused him to say that the negotiations with Israel have reached an impasse—that as well as his efforts to lower the expectations in anticipation of 13 December. The political sources clarified that there is no crisis or impasse in the talks, even though there are difficulties, and gaps remain between the positions of the two sides. The sources said that if 'Arafat ordered Nabil Sha'th—during their meeting in Europe—to create a crisis, it is possible that a Rabin-'Arafat summit will be unavoidable, perhaps even a tripartite meeting between Rabin, Christopher, and 'Arafat. Rabin's associates yesterday said that so far the possibility of such a summit in Europe is not on the agenda.

Rabin To Urge Focus on Jordan

TA2611193693 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] The prime minister does not intend to change his policy with regard to Syria despite the heavy pressure exerted by the United States. This statement was made by political sources in Jerusalem. Rabin will try to persuade U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, who is due in Israel at the end of next week, to focus on the Jordanian track at this time.

Rabin Briefs Cabinet on Disputes in Talks

TA2811113993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] Earlier this morning, the cabinet discussed security and political issues. Prime Minister Rabin briefed the ministers about several significant points relating to the political negotiations. Yitzhaq Rabin said no agreement has been achieved with the Palestinians regarding the outer borders of the autonomy—or to put it simply, who will be in control of the Rafah border terminals and the Jordan bridges. There is a serious controversy between Israel and the PLO regarding this issue. Israel is demanding control of the border bridges and the Rafah border terminals, but the Palestinians oppose this. Another issue under debate is the extent of withdrawal from Jericho. The Palestinians believe Israel should withdraw from all the territory between 'Ayn Fashkhah to the Jiftlik, an area of approximately 300 square km. Israel is opposed to this, claiming it should withdraw only from the area of Jericho itself, and a serious controversy surrounds this issue also.

Referring to the issue of the Qatif Bloc, Rabin clarified that this area will be treated as one unit rather than as individual settlements, this in the wake of a Palestinian demand to treat the bloc as a series of individual

settlements—a thing which Israel opposes. Prime Minister Rabin is unwilling to implement the agreement until all the details are ironed out. Apparently Rabin has been disappointed from the agreement of principles experience, when most of the details were left out and only the basic issues were dealt with. Rabin also clarified that the fate of the Jordan Valley and Golan Heights settlements will be based on the resolutions adopted at the Labor Party conference.

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 28 November adds: "Rabin said the present difficulties in the negotiations with the Palestinians were foreseen, and it was expected that the talks would continue in spite of them."]

Another issue raised during today's cabinet meeting was Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin's remarks regarding the Jordan River as Israel's security border. Minister Shim'on Shetrit sharply criticized Beilin and reminded Rabin that he has the authority to fire ministers and deputy ministers, clearly hinting at Deputy Minister Beilin. Minister Ya'aqov Tzur also criticized the leftists in the government. Minister Ora Namir also took issue with the comments attributed to Deputy Minister Beilin and Minister Yosi Sarid spoke against unnecessary public declarations.

Prime Minister Rabin refused to deal with this issue, saying that a discussion on Yosi Beilin's comments will be held only after the return of his boss, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, from his journey abroad.

The ministers were also briefed by the heads of the security services and the police commissioner on the killing of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist in Sur Bahir, and by the Shin Bet chief on the successes of the Shin Bet in the struggle against Hamas.

It is assessed that the hitches in the talks with the PLO will not stop the negotiations, rather only make things somewhat more difficult.

Rabin: 4 Points of Dispute

TA2911115093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning that the Palestinians and Israel disagree on four points. Israel will not compromise on these points, all of which relate to security issues.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the prime minister said that Israel is demanding that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] remain responsible for the security of the Qatif Bloc settlements, whereas the Palestinians prefer to see each settlement's security handled on an individual basis. According to the agreement of principles, Israel is demanding sole responsibility for security on the roads, while the Palestinians are demanding joint patrols. Neither has there been any progress toward resolving the disagreement over the size of the Jericho area. Israel is demanding sole responsibility for the external security of the area, while the Palestinians are demanding to share responsibility for the border crossings and terminals.

The prime minister said that it is preferable to reach a good and detailed agreement, even after 13 December, in order to guarantee the implementation of the agreement before 13 April.

Prisoner Release Depends on MIA's

TA2911123093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asserted that the negotiations with the Palestinians have not run aground. Proof of that, he said, lies in the fact that three negotiating committees are convening today and tomorrow in Cairo, al-'Arish, and Paris. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that addressing the issue of a prisoner release, the prime minister stressed that this is a question of give-and-take that will depend to a large extent on the information received from the PLO and other elements on the missing IDF [Israel Defense Forces] servicemen.

Rabin Congratulates Egypt's Sidqi

TA2611163093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this afternoon telephoned Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi to congratulate him on escaping an assassination attempt. The prime minister conveyed his condolences to the victims' families, adding: We will continue combating terror until we defeat it.

Peres: Crisis in Talks 'Negotiating Tactics'

TA2811170593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Tirana by Mikha'el Tuchfeld, on 28 November—recorded]

[Text] [Tuchfeld] Is it not a bit strange that at such a critical time in the negotiations with the Palestinians, you find it necessary to visit Albania, a state of marginal importance?

[Peres] I think that Albania has an importance. Our foreign policy is to break through the Muslim blockade. I am in Albania for only one day and will be back home early tomorrow. The crisis in the negotiations with the Palestinians is part of the negotiating process. It was expected because these negotiations are unprecedented. We do not have anyone to learn from, or anything to

which to compare them. Therefore, it is only natural that there be problems, but we will overcome them.

[Tuchfeld] If that is the case, do you agree with the statements that there are serious problems in the negotiations?

[Peres] There are problems, there were in the past, and there will be in the future. It is part of the process. The same occurred before the signing of the Oslo accord.

[Tuchfeld] During your visit to Albania, which is a Muslim country, will you be able to find a bridge to the Islamic world to aid negotiations?

[Peres] The very fact that a Muslim country such as Albania, which is a member of the Islamic League, receives visitors from Israel in such a pleasant way is in itself a political statement. There are 15 million Albanians, of whom 3,200,000 live in their own country, while the rest are in the diaspora, mainly Yugoslavia, Greece, and Macedonia. We have a strong interest in that state being friendly toward Israel, and I believe that is what is happening.

[Tuchfeld] Will it, however, have an impact on other Muslim states?

[Peres] There are all sorts of Muslim states. The more Muslim states we manage to bring around to being friendly toward Israel the better. That goes without saying, and it is of prime importance.

[Tuchfeld] I am talking about Albania's influence, or is it considered a totally unimportant factor in the Muslim world?

[Peres] Nobody is totally unimportant. The Iranians and Turks are investing huge amounts to build mosques and other things there. The negotiations are, however, between us and the Palestinians and they should be seen in that context.

[Tuchfeld] How do you think the differences that have surfaced with the Palestinians can be bridged?

[Peres] Part of the crisis is due to the negotiating process, it is a negotiating tactic. We must take into account that such crises have occurred in the past and will take place in the future. As to the remainder, we have to look at the facts and see how they can be overcome, as we did in the past.

[Tuchfeld] Do you think there is a crisis of confidence?

[Peres] No, I would not call it a crisis of confidence. I would say it was a crisis in negotiating tactics.

Implemention May Start 13 Dec

TA2811194893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he believes the implementation of the peace accord with the PLO will begin on 13 December as scheduled. The foreign minister spoke by phone from Albania where he held talks today with officials in the capital Tirana on the occasion of Albania's national day. Peres spoke with reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Ze'ev] I would like to ask you, if I may, about the peace talks with the Palestinians. I understand that you believe that Yasir 'Arafat's statement about an impasse is exaggerated.

[Peres] I think it is part of the negotiations, maybe a tactical part of it, and I would take it in this context.

[Ze'ev] Will the negotiations resume this week?

[Peres] I think so, either this week or next week, but nobody has a way to go back. The day of yesterday is dead, and all of us have to go forward.

[Ze'ev] It seems that the sticking points include the crossing points, the crossing bridges between the autonomy area and Jordan, and also the issue, of course, of whether Israel is only redeploying or withdrawing its forces. Are there any points on which Israel can be flexible in any way?

[Peres] Well, these are not new items. We were dealing with them already in the Oslo negotiations, and I think we shall come to terms on these two points as well.

[Ze'ev] So that by 13 December, the date the Palestinian police force is supposed to take over and the Israeli forces to move out, do you think it will happen?

[Peres] Well, on 13 December we have to begin the implementation, not to complete it. We have four months for the completion of the implementation, so I mean, I would not judge it by one day.

[Ze'ev] But you think it will begin on 13 December?

[Peres] There is a good chance that some of it may begin on 13 December, yes. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 28 November in a report by Yoram Ronen on today's cabinet meeting reports, however: "Several ministers received the impression that the negotiations with the PLO are stuck, but it might be a temporary deadlock, which will be resolved in the coming weeks. The prime minister today reiterated to ministers that if another two weeks are needed, it is no tragedy if the withdrawal does not take place precisely on 13 December. The main thing is that everything be resolved inside the PLO and nothing be left open."]

[Earlier in the newscast, (Sufyan Abu-Zahadah), a member of the Palestinian Supreme Committee on Gaza Affairs, said in a recorded passage: "In many locations where the Palestinian police will be deployed at the outset, we see the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has already begun to thin out its troops." (Abu-Zahadah) refused to say where these locations were.]

Peres Urges Opening Borders

BR2911161593 Brussels LE SOIR in French 27-28 Nov 93 p 1

[Article by Baudouin Loos: "Peres: 'Finally See the Fruits of Peace'—Israeli Foreign Minister Stops Briefly in Brussels"]

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres firmly believes in the move toward peace following the signature of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles. He remains its top architect for the Israeli side.

The severe riots in Gaza on Thursday [25 November], following the death of the leader of Hamas' armed section, will not shake Peres' determination. He even "understands" why Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah supported the strikes launched by the Islamic people in Gaza. "We are in a period that is not simple," he told us yesterday in Brussels, "a transition period where everyone can see the price of peace without seeing the fruits of peace! One must wait until the changes materialize, and that will be difficult."

The ticklish context leaves most people skeptical about the 13 December deadline for finetuning the agreement and the start of the Israeli withdrawal. "According to the calendar, there will be another four months after this date for concluding it; this is what counts," tempers Mr. Peres. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, however, had declared on Thursday [25 November] that 13 December was "not a sacred date"; this was at the time when Yasir 'Arafat deemed that things could not be slowed down.

As for problems relegated for many years, the Israeli foreign minister appeared more cautious: "By leaving Jewish settlers where they are, we avoid a terrible clash in Israel itself. As for the principles, I will remind you that there are Arabs who live under a non-Arab administration (in Israel); one can envision Israelis living under a non-Israeli administration."

The return of the Palestinians, even those in Israeli-occupied Jordan who are refugees of the 1967 war, does not inspire the Israeli minister in the least: "Their return is not planned during the initial period; it must wait." He is also firm about the future status of the Holy City: "Jerusalem is a closed city from a political viewpoint and, from a religious viewpoint, an open city for the three major religions. We are not going to rebuild a Berlin wall in Jerusalem; it would be crazy!"

On the other hand, the Middle East's future remains the subject of Shim'on Peres' preferred eloquence: "Beyond the image, when I tell Palestinians: 'Do not build a wall around Jericho,' I want to signal the region's need to finally open its borders, as in Europe. It is necessary to keep a market economy, not to build obstacles, nor wave the flag. Benelux must be the inspirational model for Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians. Will Israel not be dominant? No. In economics, which is what counts, it is not domination, but competition, a strong, immediate, widespread competition that exceeds the framework of countries."

Peres Discusses Syrian Peace Stand With Juppe

TA2711141493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] The French foreign minister has said that during his recent visit to Damascus he found no signs of flexibility in the Syrian leaders' stands with regard to the political process and the possibility of a meeting between senior Syrian and Israeli leaders.

Our Paris-based correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that Minister Alain Juppe conveyed this assessment in a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He voiced the assumption that the Syrians might be reserving their gestures for U.S. secretary of state's upcoming visit to the region.

Shahal: Al-Asad 'Only Reason' for No Progress

TA2811125693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 93 p A4

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] "Today, al-Asad is a source of agitation against Israel and Arab countries. He is the only reason for the lack of progress in Israeli-Jordanian relations." This remark was made last night by Moshe Shahal, minister of police and of energy and infrastructure, in an address before the Israeli Association for Public Relations.

Shahal maintained that every time al-Asad hears about planned contacts between Israel and an Arab country, he calls the Arab side, reprimands it, and warns it against taking additional moves. "If no agreement is made with Syria, al-Asad will do everything he can to foil other agreement," Shahal said.

Shahal added that Israel is facing a difficult interim period, until the autonomy in Gaza and Jericho is implemented. According to him, the peace-opposing Palestinians know that terror attacks against Israelis will create an opposition to the peace agreement among the Israeli public. "We must remember that some Fatah elements do not accept the agreement, and we expect trouble in the future," he said. According to him, the agreement between the PLO and Israel is designed so that Gaza and Jericho serve as test case for the Palestinian ability to prevent terror. [passage omitted]

Shahal on Meetings With Palestinians

TA2911084893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Ya'el Dan and Itay Engel on 29 November—recorded]

[Text] [Engel] Earlier this morning, we spoke with Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who met yesterday with Faysal al-Husayni and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad following the latter's resignation as head of the confidence-building committee. We asked Minister Shahal about the implications of Abu-Zayyad's resignation with regard to the level of trust between the two parties.

[Shahal] First of all, I would like to explain something. These talks or meetings are generally held at the request of Ziyad Abu-Zayyad or, occasionally, Faysal al-Husayni. These talks do not fall within the framework of negotiations; they are merely background briefings. Both the Palestinians and the Israelis have encountered a gap between expectations and reality. We also had expectations that were not met. We have also suffered disappointments over developments in the field since the signing of the agreement.

[Dan] There seems to be more than just a gap in expectations. The Palestinians are claiming that Israel has failed to keep its commitments—for example, with regard to the release of Palestinian prisoners, which seems to be one of the major stumbling blocks.

[Shahal] I must say that this was not the way they put things. They had expectations, they referred to statements that were made in the past.

[Dan] Has Israel toughened its position on the release of Palestinian prisoners?

[Shahal] Israel is demanding more reciprocity. This is an issue about which we must receive answers and also see results in the field. I think it is a part of the negotiations. I do not view it as a crisis. These feelings are, to some extent, objective. Anyone who has conducted a realistic analysis of an agreement, in any framework, between us and the Palestinians had to reach the conclusion that there would be ups and downs. Second, this is an attempt to examine whether there are any creative proposals that could help us resolve the existing problems. I would say that there are three concrete problems: One is the issue of the border crossings. The second is the size of the Jericho area. The third issue, which may be of pressing concern to the Palestinian street, is that of the prisoners. The Palestinian street is full of families with children or relatives in prison. They believed that once there was an agreement, a new situation would immediately ensue. I would expect them to demonstrate a more realistic approach, because Israel, after all, wants to fully uphold the agreement, and we expect the other side to match our pace.

[Dan] We have heard complaints, and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad even said so explicitly, that Israel is now demanding information about its missing soldiers. Is this new? Is Israel making progress in the negotiations conditional on such information?

[Shahal] No. Our demand or, more accurately, request was made at the meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman 'Arafat in Cairo. Apparently, there was some information, as well as expectations for more, on the location of our MIA's. This is but an example. Perhaps I should explain the background of the meeting. As I stated earlier, these talks in no way constitute negotiations. I do not conduct negotiations; neither do I wish to do so. These are merely background talks. We simply exchange thoughts in order to know what is bothering the other side and to float ideas on how to resolve problems.

[Engel] Okay, Minister Shahal. How about floating an idea right now? We spoke about creative proposals earlier. We have learned that one Israeli proposal stipulates continued Israeli control of the Allenby Bridge and the Rafah border crossing with a symbolic Palestinian presence. Do you believe that the PLO will accept such a proposal?

[Shahal] I cannot answer that, because I am not a spokesman for the Palestinians.

[Engel] Is this one of the creative proposals you mentioned?

[Shahal] Look, there is definitely something creative about such a proposal, whether it was indeed presented or not.

[Dan] Thank you very much, Minister Shahal.

Settlers Said Smuggling Arms From East Europe

TA2811165593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Extreme rightist groups among the settlers in the territories have been preparing secret arms caches which they say they intend to use to fight the autonomy after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from certain areas. They claim that in recent months they have been stealing explosives from IDF bases and importing sabotage materiel and ammunition from various countries in Eastern Europe. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Begin Yokhpaz recording] Extremist groups told me this evening that in the last few months settlers in various locations have been hoarding large quantities of arms and ammunition smuggled in from Russia and Czechoslovakia. They further told IDF Radio that, among other things, they smuggled in disassembled Kalashnikov rifles, explosives that can be carried in a suitcase, and manuals on how to assemble explosive charges.

There have been numerous rumors in recent months about settlers preparing arms caches in the territories, Kakh spokesman No'am Federman told us this evening. I am not surprised that the government caused the settlers to act this way, he said. [passage omitted]

This evening, for the first time, these extremists claimed that some settlers in Judaea and Samaria have been stealing explosives, grenades, and ammunition from IDF bases. They added that these arms are being hoarded for

use on what they call Judgment Day, the day when the IDF leaves the territories or impounds all the weapons it issued to the settlers.

In the meantime, however, people in Kakh's offices in Jerusalem this evening told me that the capture of Kakh activist Rabbi Avraham Toledano will yet prove much ado about nothing. Some settlers have brought to Israel larger quantities and far more dangerous materiel than the Israel Police seized in Toledano's luggage, they said. [passage omitted]

We are not the only ones who have been stealing weapons from the IDF, the extremists say. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, too, has been seizing weapons from the IDF and handing them over to the Palestinian police force. [end recording]

How does the defense establishment react to these reports? Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, says that all the reports stem from the thirst for publicity of a handful of rightists. Our army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports:

Defense establishment officials reacted to all the aforementioned utterances with utmost caution, noting that the activities of rightist groups in the territories are being monitored constantly.

[Begin Or recording] People who hoard ammunition and seriously intend to use it do not announce it from the rooftops. It is just that a few settlers want to be constantly in the headlines, create tensions, and make Israelis think that peace is impossible. [end recording]

Defense officials would like to stress that they do not regard such overt utterances by the settlers as a violation of the law.

Army Officials on Recent Hamas, Jihad Losses

TA2811121493

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 28 November carries two reports on page 6 about the current state of affairs in the territories. A report by Roni Shaqed says that "40 wanted men, half of which are Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members and the other half belonging to the Islamic Jihad, are still at large in the West Bank; most of them are armed. In the Gaza Strip, there are 70 fugitives, 40 of which belong to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, and they are mostly armed." The report goes on to say that "at least two armed and dangerous teams, guided by the Hamas command, are still operating in the Ramallah and Nabulus regions."

The other report by Roni Shaqed, Arye Kiesel, and David Regev cites "security sources" who warned over the weekend that "'the recent successes we scored against Hamas have left the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads without field leadership, but Hamas is able to recover relatively quickly and close its ranks. Hamas has a wide arsenal of arms and manpower, and it is very probable that its members will attempt to carry out a big terror attack in the coming days to prove it did not crack.'"

"Commander of Southern Command Matan Vilna'i said over the weekend that the events of the past several days are not 'a revival of the intifadah.' They are merely a popular reaction to the killing of 'Imad 'Aqil."

The report goes on to say that 22-years old Nasir Muhammad al-Fadi was given "eight life sentences and an additional 60-year prison term. He was a member of the Red Eagle squad of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 November, in a page-A2 report by Eytan Rabin, adds that "al-Fadi was convicted by the Gaza Military Court of murdering Israeli civilian Simha Levi and seven Palestinians whom he suspected of collaboration." The report also says that seven people were injured in riots in the Gaza Strip over the weekend, according to "Palestinian sources."

Soldier Shot; 30 Fatah Activists Rounded Up

TA2811202493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly wounded in the leg in Gaza tonight when he was shot by terrorists. He was transferred to Barzilay Hospital for treatment. The incident occurred in al-Nasir Street when a volley of shots was fired at a Army force, and the soldiers returned fire. The IDF closed off the area and started searches for the perpetrators.

A resident of Bayt Immar near Hebron sustained medium wounds when shot by the IDF while trying to run away from a roadblock. The IDF spokesman reported that a vehicle in which the man was a passenger stopped only after shots were fired in the air. When he tried to flee, shots were fired at him.

A Ramallah resident was wounded in Nabulus when soldiers fired shots to disperse stone throwers.

Residents of the Khan Yunus refugee camp told our correspondent Moti Amir that some 30 Fatah activists were rounded up in the camp last night and this morning.

PLO Said Angered by Arrests of Fatah Men

TA2911071093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunus, a Palestinian was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. The man, Ahmad Abu-Rish, had been on the Army's wanted list but had turned himself in two weeks ago and was released. The shooting took place when two other wanted terrorists apparently were visiting him. They were spotted by IDF troops, who closed in. The terrorists opened fire and in the ensuing

exchange, Abu-Rish was killed. The other two Palestinians escaped. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 29 November in a report by David Regev on pages 1 and 15 reports that "over the past 24 hours, the security forces have arrested 35 Palestinians from Khan Yunus who are either Fatah activists or identified with that organization. There was concern last night that the arrests may lead to a wave of rioting in the Gaza Strip. Fatah activists in the Gaza Strip expressed fury over the arrests yesterday and claimed that they violate the agreement between the PLO and Israel. The news, which also reached Tunis, aroused a great deal of anger: PLO sources said that the arrests constitute a grave violation of the agreement." The report notes that "official Army sources said that only 20 people had been arrested."]

4 'Terrorists' Apprehended; Arms Confiscated

TA2811101793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] The Shin Bet and other security forces early this month apprehended four terrorists belonging to the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad on their way to carry out a kidnapping and murder attack against an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier in the Jerusalem region. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports the four drove a car, and an IDF soldier at a roadblock near 'Atarot reported that the four looked suspicious, although they all possessed Israeli I.D. cards. Soldiers manning another roadblock, near al-Ram, stopped the car and searched it, finding a rifle, knives, a rope, and a yarmulke. Our correspondent adds that a charge sheet against the four was submitted to the Lod military court.

Curfew Lifted on Gaza Neighborhood, Refugee Camp

TA2811095393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] This morning the security forces lifted the curfew on the Jabalyah refugee camp and the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that several stoning and tire torching incidents took place in the Jabalyah refugee camp, but there were no serious confrontations with the security forces.

Parliament Extends Support for King's Speech

JN2911123393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] The Senate and the House of Representatives have affirmed their backing and support for his Majesty King Husayn's wise domestic and foreign policy, and for his majesty's relentless efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive peace based on Jordan's clear constants and principles concerning the restoration of Arab rights and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem.

In their replies to the speech from the throne, the two chambers affirmed that they will continue to extend support for his majesty's sponsorship of freedom, democratization, human rights, and consolidation of political pluralism in a manner that enhances the people's role in decisionmaking, maintains national unity, and provides security and stability for citizens.

Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi and House Speaker Tahir al-Masri read the two replies when his majesty the king received members of the two chambers at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today. The two chambers shared His Majesty King Husayn's assessment of the importance of the next phase, which will witness extremely important events requiring further caution and vigilance—events which will require a stand stemming from our national unity and constants, which are based on international legitimacy, to achieve a just, comprehensive peace.

The two chambers expressed support for upgrading the Jordanian Armed Forces and security organs, which constitute the country's shield and which are a source of pride for their role in protecting the homeland and citizens and providing security and stability, so that they would continue their mission. The two chambers noted with pride and appreciation their humanitarian contribution to the international peace-keeping troops.

The Senate and the House of Representatives also affirmed that they will translate the trust placed in them into nationalist stands to protect the people's interests, maintain their rights, and strengthen and support our democratic option, so that Jordan would remain a good example to be emulated and so that the dignity of its population may be maintained and its rights preserved. Both chambers stressed the importance of closing ranks, unity, and cohesiveness of the domestic front to protect our achievements.

The two chambers expressed appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts and constant calls for improving and promoting Arab relations and achieving Arab solidarity. They also expressed appreciation for Jordan's stands under his majesty's leadership on all issues.

The two chambers pledged to do their best to ensure cooperation, consultation, and harmony with the government in accordance with the principles of the Constitution to boost the march of national development in all fields.

In their replies, the two chambers called for upgrading the economic, social, and services situation in the less-privileged areas. They also called for developing an economic and social vision in accordance with a more feasible and fair formula. They also called for adopting objective bases in the selection of administrative leaders and for reactivating the state's vitality by supporting it with efficient and creative personnel to achieve progress on all levels.

The Senate and the House of Representatives beseeched God to preserve Jordan under the wise leadership of his majesty the king so that it would become a r..odel of freedom, justice, and self- sufficiency, as well as a fortress of security and an oasis of well- being, dignity, and accomplishment.

Cabinet Endorses Draft Budget for Fiscal Year

JN2711160293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The cabinet held a session today under Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. It endorsed the state draft budget for 1994, which will be referred to the parliament as stipulated by the Constitution.

Finance Minister Sami Qammuh held a news conference this afternoon, during which he spoke about the draft. More details in the following report:

At his news conference, the finance minister said: It is common knowledge that the draft state budget represents the annual plan adopted by the government for the next fiscal year to implement its policies and achieve its aims in the various social, economic, and development spheres.

The finance minister added: "The draft represents a qualitative shift in that it has been prepared with a focus on individual governorates. Each governorate now has a budget that shows its current and capital expenditures. This is in line with the government's shift toward decentralization to make way for national and popular participation in economic decisionmaking, facilitate measures, and save the esteemed citizens' time, effort, and money.

"This draft has no deficit. Public revenues, including foreign grants, are sufficient to cover current and capital expenditures for fiscal year 1994. This has been achieved without introducing any measures to levy new taxes or fees. Local revenues in the draft law were estimated at 1,330.7 million dinars, with an 18 percent increase over the estimate of the 1993 budget, and around 8.5 percent more than the re-estimate. Foreign grants and technical and financial aid were estimated at 156.4 million dinars. Estimated public revenues for 1994 thus total 1,487.1 million dinars. Public expenditures for fiscal year 1994 were also estimated at 1,487 million dinars, 12 percent more than the 1993 estimate, and around 11 percent

more than the re-estimate. Current expenditures were estimated at 1,228.4 million dinars for 1994, 14 percent more than the 1993 estimate, and around 7.5 percent more than the re-estimate. Capital expenditures were estimated at 357.7 million dinars, a 5.4 percent increase over the 1993 estimate, and around 23 percent higher than the re-estimate.

"The draft state budget for 1994 is in harmony with the policies and aims of the national economic restructuring program. It also emphasizes the constants of the financial policy adopted by the government and represented in the following:

"1. Controlling public spending policy and improving revenues to reduce the budget deficit as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product [GDP].
"2. Reducing public capital spending against the overall national investments, to broaden the contribution of the public sector.
"3. Continuing to adopt self-reliance by seeking to make local revenues cover all current and capital expenditures.
"4. Continuing to implement the tax reform program by developing collection methods, simplifying measures, broadening the tax base, and endorsing the sales tax draft by the beginning of next year. This is meant to compensate the treasury for the reduced customs fees as a result of reduced imports in light of the increase and development in local production.
"5. Allocating the necessary funds to support the valiant Armed Forces, Public Security, Civil Defense, and civilian agencies, to ensure continued social, economic, and political security.
"6. Supporting local production, encouraging national exports, and increasing investment.
"7. Seeking persistently to address the negative aftereffects of the Gulf crisis, primarily the problems of unemployment and poverty.
"8. Seeking to achieve the aims of the economic readjustment program by increasing the GDP growth and reducing the budget and current account deficit as a percentage of the GDP. This will be done while maintaining relative price stability and continuing to build up the kingdom's reserves of foreign currencies to ensure a stable dinar exchange rate."

The finance minister also said that the draft allocates 66 million dinars for development and capital projects as an emergency budget to be used when additional funds are available. He said the figures outlined above do not include the financing budget that has to do with repayment of foreign and local loan installments.

Papers View Upcoming Christopher Tour of Region

'Pressure' on Israel Required

JN2711152093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Nov 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "An Imminent New Tour!"]

[Text] The Arab region is preparing to receive the U.S. secretary of state on a new tour. We have lost track of how many tours there have been. This tour's declared objective is to give the peace process another push, and to remove the obstacles to peace.

It is difficult to imagine the form and magnitude of such an effort, or of the obstacles to peace. We, however, can say that achieving a comprehensive and just peaceful settlement only requires frank and declared U.S. seriousness. That would make the Zionist enemy accept international legitimacy and its resolutions as indisputable matters. This can be done by political, economic, or military pressure. During the Gulf crisis, we saw how pressure can be brought to bear in a few weeks, implemented in a few days, and maintained by killing, slaughtering, mutilating, and torturing hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children and ill people.

It is true that we sometimes talk with profound bitterness and indignation about the game of peace and about the fact that U.S.- Zionist hostility to our nation will not provide a just peace. It is also true that whenever the U.S. secretary of state comes to our region we hear statements that Arabs should be more prepared to make concessions and less prepared to reject U.S. and Israeli conditions. But, we are reassured by the beautiful and established truth that any peace that does not regain Palestinian and Arab rights will be only a fragile truce imposed on us by Zionist and U.S. arrogance. Our generation and future generations would circumvent such a truce, despite this arrogance.

Perhaps, what we see, hear, and receive from occupied Palestine every day will make us feel more reassured about our future, despite the fact that our situation is replete with tragedies, disasters, and defeats.

'Another Inspection Tour' Chided

JN2811131193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Nov 93 p 26

["Spotlight" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "The Boring Game"]

[Text] Jordan's commitment to the UN embargo on Iraq has not removed the U.S. warships from the Straits of Tiran. The commodities bound for the Jordanian market are still subjected to practices that deliberately cause harm to al-'Aqabah port activity as well as the Jordanian trade and economy.

Jordan's commitment to the total embargo has not affected the continuing embargo on al-'Aqabah. This is because both al-'Aqabah port as well as our eastern border with Iraq are part of a total embargo strategy not designed to implement the UN resolutions but to arrange the regional situation, so the region would become a zone in which Israel would have control and a preferential position in its capacity as the [U.S.] agent and full partner.

The embargo on al-'Aqabah, which practically goes beyond what is sought by the UN resolutions, is ironic. It is ironic because we have seen how the international resolutions on Bosnia were dealt with. In Bosnia, UN resolutions were no more than sheets of paper, but here they mean warships, and Cruise missiles.

In a few days, we will receive U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on another "olive branch" mission. However, we have become fed up with this game. Christopher's tour will not be a peace tour but another inspection tour of a region that is besieged with U.S. fleets and hostile resolutions that hurt the feelings of all Arabs.

The Americans have not offered the region any peace since the Gulf war. The U.S. negotiator does not deserve any credit even for the only agreement reached; namely, the "Gaza-Jericho" agreement. Throughout 10 rounds of talks, the U.S. negotiator submitted papers and proposals which were more extremist than the Israeli position itself.

We want an end to the policy of warships and Cruise missiles, which is the least the United States can do. As for beating the peace drums, all we have seen so far are spotlights and theatricals aimed to divert attention from the escalating U.S.-Israeli big stick policy.

In view of the overall [Arab] defeat, and by virtue of the U.S. fleets, this region could become a U.S. colony or zone of influence. However, it would not become a region of Asia blessed by its people. There is growing conviction in the region that "Uncle Sam" is behaving like another colonialist lion. This evokes the spirit of resistance among the peoples of the Orient, who have earnestly begun to seek sources of spiritual, material, and historical strength in preparation for a new battle of liberation.

It is illogical for people to view the warships, fleets, insults, and sieges as heralding the creation of a new region, which appears as an empty utopia. Regions are like alliances—they cannot be established and maintained if the people are not convinced of them. The policy of throwing dust in people's eyes will soon be revealed, as will the telling of lies.

Clinton Meeting With Salman Rushdie Criticized

JN2711142593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Nov 93 pp 28, 23

[Article carried within the "Last Column" by Salah al-Qallab: "The Clintonic Verses"]

[Excerpts] When U.S. President Bill Clinton insisted on receiving British writer Salman Rushdie, who is of Indian origin—the writer who insulted the feelings and beliefs of Muslims not only in Iran, but throughout the world—he intentionally sought to embrace this insult and shake the hand of this novelist. Even neutral critics cast doubt about his writing and creative skills. [passage omitted]

What we want to say is that when Bill Clinton—who affirmed that he neither read *The Satanic Verses* nor heard of its writer before Khomeyni issued his verdict—received Salman Rushdie, in fact, he intended to embrace the phenomenon of hostility to Islam and Muslims and to insult hundreds of millions of Muslims who are hurt by this evil novel.

There are many outstanding Muslim novelists and writers in Arab Maghreb, in Egypt, and in many other countries who are much better than Salman Rushdie and some of whom are winners of Nobel prize in literature. However, Bill Clinton might never have heard of any of them. This proves that receiving this renegade writer has nothing to do with literature or writers. This is a political process that aims at showing bias against Islam and Muslims during this era in which Islam—doctrine and civilization—is being exposed to a planned and orchestrated campaign and to premeditated distortion.

Bill Clinton is not President of an ordinary country; he is the President of the United States which allegedly defends values and freedom of religion throughout the world. Therefore, by receiving this writer, who insulted every Muslim on earth and who did not contribute anything valuable to literature, Clinton has placed himself and his country in confrontation with Muslims and has proved his bias toward blind fanaticism against Islam and the Islamic civilization in America and the whole West.

King To Host Yemen's Salih, al-Bid in Amman

JN2711122493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Nov 93 pp 1, 5

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn has invited Yemeni President 'Abdallah Salih and Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid to hold a reconciliation meeting in Amman, informed sources said Friday.

The sources said contacts were continuing to arrange the meeting in line with an offer made by the king to mediate in the nine-month- old dispute between the two Yemeni leaders. The sources could not provide a definite date.

"His Majesty offered his good offices as a mediator in the conflict through messages he sent to President Salih and Mr. al-Bid early this month," said one source.

Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir paid a visit to Yemen three weeks ago to deliver the messages in separate meetings with Mr. Salih and Mr. Al-Bid, the sources told the JORDAN TIMES.

The Jordanian offer to mediate the conflict, which is threatening the three-and-a-half-year-old merger between conservative North Yemen and formerly

Marxist South Yemen, was "well received" by the Yemeni leaders, another source said.

"The Yemeni leaders understand and appreciate the goodwill gesture of Jordan and both of them believe that King Husayn, whom they trust, could be the catalyst in bringing them together and ending the conflict once and for all," said the source.

According to the source, both leaders are trying to convince their supporters and loyalists of the need to bring about Yemeni reconciliation and the "wisdom of meeting away from Yemen to discuss the crisis and means how to settle it." [passage omitted]

Al-Majali: Water 'Important Topic' in Peace Talks

JN2811205093 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 28 Nov 93

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said Jordan has experienced the severity of immense pressures of an increasing number of population on the water resources, and that it had drawn up legislations over the past five decades to manage its water, and cope with its scarcity.

Dr. al-Majali told a seminar on the uses and protection of water that Jordan will keep pace with the technological development by updating the management effort and the legislation.

He said the imbalance between resources and population demand has not been a characteristic of Jordan alone, but that of Palestinian lands, which have also experienced the same problem. He said the importance of water to the region made it an important topic in the Middle East peace talks. [passage omitted]

SLA Leader Comments on Defections, Peace Process

NC2911143693 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, Nov 29 (AFP)—Five members of Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), quit the militia earlier this month to avoid being accused of treason if Israel signs a peace deal with Lebanon, SLA chief Antoine Lahd said.

Speaking to AFP at the weekend from his fortified home inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, Lahd denied reports of any large-scale defections from the ranks of the 3,000-strong SLA.

Lebanese security sources reported that the Iranian-backed Hizballah movement captured 12 SLA militants during a major offensive on occupied south Lebanon on November 16. However, reports from Beirut said the men had defected.

Lahd said five of the 12 militants men who disappeared from the SLA's position in Tallusah, inside the security zone, had "gone to the other side, believing that this will guarantee their future status in an era of peace."

"They might be successful. God be with them," he said.

Lahd said he expected that a solution "to preserve the dignity of the SLA and those working with Israel" would be found as part of an overall Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty.

"Accusations of collaboration will lose their meaning in time of peace," he said.

Israel would maintain a military presence in south Lebanon, Lahd said, "as long as Lebanon cannot guarantee the right conditions for peace," and even if Syria signed a peace accord with the Jewish state.

"The problem is to achieve peace," he said, adding that the Lebanese central government must disarm Hizballah.

Lahd accused Syria of giving Hizballah the green light to carry out anti-Israeli operations.

Israeli troops invaded Lebanon in 1978 to stop attacks on its territory and again in 1982 to drive out the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Since 1985 it has controlled a buffer zone along with the SLA.

"The occupation is the result of resistance. It will end when resistance ends. The authorities must read their history again," Lahd said.

Cedar Party Leader Wanted for 'Collaborating' With Israel

NC2711111393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Chief Military Magistrate Riyad Tali' has issued a warrant for the arrest of Etienne Saqr, the leader of the Guardians of the Cedar Party, who lives in Sabbah village in Jazzin district, demanding that he be tried for communicating and collaborating with the Israeli enemy, an offense punishable under Article 278 of the Penal Code.

Bishop Calls For Withdrawal of Foreign Troops

NC2711174993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Bishop Bisharah al-Ra'i, the general coordinator of the preparations for convening the Synod In Lebanon, has questioned the extent to which the al-Ta'if Agreement's freedom and democracy principles have been implemented, noting: We still remember the recent parliamentary elections and can see what kind of actions are being carried out now.

He added: We can see that disagreements are not solved via constitutional institutions but through foreign intervention.

Commenting on the constitutional provision that Lebanon is the ultimate homeland of all its sons, al-Ra'i asked: In actual practice, to what extent is it an ultimate homeland? So far it is a collection of homelands in the Lebanese people's minds.

He questioned the extent to which coexistence and democracy are being implemented in connection with the disbandment of the militias, noting that one militia was allowed to continue under the name of the National Resistance.

He asked: Is the south Muslim or Lebanese? If it is Lebanese, this should mean that all Lebanese nationals, Christian and Muslim, are responsible for national resistance. Why should there be a militia that gives Israel the pretext to attack Lebanon and a pretext to other armies to claim that their peace is being threatened?

Speaking on Radio Free Lebanon's "Dialogue With an Official" program, Bishop al-Ra'i wondered why UN Security Council Resolution 425 has not been implemented. He asked: Is this because the outcome of its implementation would be the Syrian Army's redeployment from Lebanon and the evacuation of all non-Lebanese forces?

He also asked why no foreign political decision to restore the displaced citizens to their homes has been issued.

Bishop al-Ra'i denounced the current arbitrary arrests, which show no respect for humanity and contravene liberty and democracy. He said neither the Lebanese Army nor non-Lebanese elements have the right to raid homes in the middle of the night and drag people to unknown destinations in a degrading manner. He said those who are arrested are invariably acquitted later, but only after being beaten up and humiliated.

He asked: How can a Lebanese love his homeland in view of this blatant disregard for human rights?

Asked if the Maronites alone are responsible for the faults of the First Republic, al-Ra'i replied: There is no such thing as political Maronism. There is Maronism as such, a valuable civilization that has played roles in various spheres of endeavor since 739.

He denied that there is such a thing as a Muslim, Christian, or Jewish Lebanon. He declared that all the Lebanese people have ruined Lebanon and hence all are urged to rebuild it.

Regarding independence, Bishop al-Ra'i said it is a historic event that must be celebrated, not disavowed, because if the public becomes accustomed to lack of respect for its history and independence, it will unknowingly accept enslavement. He pointed out, however, that this independence is currently shackled and imprisoned, and declared that real independence means the independence of the land, the human being, and the constitutional bodies. He remarked: Our land has no sovereignty because part of it is occupied. Another part is subject to the will of a non-Lebanese armed party. Likewise our constitutional bodies are held hostage and we are not free to make our own decisions. Our nation is not free, sovereign, or independent because every non-Lebanese armed party has its own group of Lebanese who raise its banner and advocate its cause.

He emphasized that all foreign armies, whether here in an illegal occupation or on the strength of friendship, fraternity, and assistance, must withdraw from Lebanon.

He pointed out that the Lebanese are not being compelled to acquiesce to foreign will, but they do so for personal interests, and he explained that as long as personal ends have precedence over the public good, the Lebanese should not dream of building a homeland.

Nevertheless al-Ra'i reaffirmed the Lebanese people's pride and dignity, saying that they cannot take one step forward because they are not yet permitted to reach understanding among themselves. He said this is why they must be patient.

Resistance Forces Attack Bra'shit

NC2711132493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Resistance men attacked a post belonging to the occupation forces and their agents in Bra'shit at dawn today, using rockets and machine guns. At the same time, another resistance group laid an ambush near the Bra'shit post and clashed with the personnel manning the post. The Israeli radio acknowledged the attack and claimed that no one was hurt.

The occupation forces shelled the vicinity of the post with large-caliber artillery. The shelling covered Shaqra, Haddatha, Majdal Silm, and Khirbat Silm villages.

SLA Post Attacked; Amal Official Assassinated

NC2811095393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that resistance men this morning attacked the South Lebanese Army [SLA] post at Hula, in the central sector of the occupied border strip, with mortars and machine guns. The soldiers manning the post fired back using machine guns. One of the attackers, 'Ali Hasan Ghazal, was injured. He was taken to Tabnin hospital, where his left hand was amputated.

Amal Movement announced it was responsible for the attack. REUTER reported that three resistance men were injured in the attack.

After the attack, the Israelis shelled the villages of Shaqra, Majdal Silm, and Haddathah, and Israeli warplanes flew over villages adjacent to the border strip.

In another development, unidentified gunmen assassinated Hasan 'Ali Ni'mah, an Amal Movement official in Zawtar al-Sharqiyah. He was shot in the head.

Israeli Helicopters Raid PFLP Center

NC2811174693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1739 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] According to security reports, Israeli helicopter gunships raided 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp this evening. The same reports added that the raid was targeted against the headquarters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] in the camp.

Lebanese Army air defenses confronted the raiding planes.

Khaddam Addresses Ba'th Party Meeting

JN2811184393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1607 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 28 Nov (SANA)—The secretaries of the Ba'th Party branches and governors resumed their meeting this morning. The meeting was chaired by comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, the Ba'th Party assistant regional secretary. It was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al- Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, the deputy prime minister for service affairs, the deputy prime minister for economic affairs, ministers, heads of popular organizations and trade unions, presidents of universities, and directors of media institutions.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam presented a comprehensive political review of the current situation in the Arab and international arenas as well as world changes and their influence on the situation in the region. He stressed Syria's pan-Arab and principled stand, under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, which has made Syria the focus of the world's attention.

Khaddam explained the stages through which the peace process has passed and the obstacles which Israel is placing to avoid the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace based on implementing resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle. He warned against the serious consequences of the Gaza-Jericho agreement since it does not meet the legitimate ambitions of the Palestinian Arab people.

Khaddam called on the world community, including the United States, to shoulder their responsibilities toward the peace march. He also called on the audience to exert more effort and mobilize energies and potentials to reinforces the national front and the cohesion of national unity in order to achieve our people's goals in terms of liberating the land and restoring rights.

Khaddam Receives Iraqi Opposition

JN2711145793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] At 1230 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received members of the Iraqi Pan-Arab Democratic Action Coordination Committee. Talks at the meeting dealt with the situation in Iraq.

AL-BA'TH Says Israel Holds 'Key to Peace'

NC2811220993 Paris AFP in English 2130 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, Nov 28 (AFP)—Israel holds the key to peace if it acknowledges Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, an official Syrian newspaper said Sunday.

AL-BA'TH said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher "could convince Israel to announce officially that it recognizes Syrian sovereignty over the Golan."

"An official and clear announcement would advance the Syrian-Israeli track of the (Middle East peace) negotiations and put an end to the blockage in the bilateral talks," said the ruling party's newspaper.

Syria insists on a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, which Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war and then annexed. The Jewish state has so far offered a partial pull-out in exchange for peace.

Christopher starts a Middle East tour on Friday.

Press on Christopher Tour, PLO-Israeli Pact

JN2811092093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour of the region at the beginning of next month to activate the stalemated peace process as a result of Israel's refusal to accept the bases and principles of peace. For peace to be achieved, the paper says, relevant UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, must be implemented and the land for peace principle must be adopted. Definitely, the paper says, this means a full, comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The paper says that in the famous document it presented during the sixth round of talks, Syria affirmed that full withdrawal from the Golan Heights will remain the basis of any move toward a just, comprehensive peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: However, instead of officially and explicitly declaring commitment to the bases and principles of the peace process, Israel began procrastinating, maneuvering, and making proposals that Syria cannot accept because they do not mean a just, comprehensive peace.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH affirms that Syria will continue to work for the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace. Consequently, Syria will continue to reject any partial or separate agreement, because such agreements do not restore the usurped Arab rights. When Syria insists on a comprehensive solution, it is because it realizes that this is the only way to achieve peace, security, and stability in the region, not the circumvention of the conditions and principles of real peace.

TISHRIN discusses the Gaza-Jericho accord, concerning which negotiations have reached a dead end because of Israel's adherence to its intransigent policies, refusal to withdraw its troops, and insistence in keeping troops deployed in the Gaza Strip and at strategic points. The paper says that the bitter truth that the citizens of the occupied Arab territories have discovered is that the aforementioned agreement has been understood by

Israel as a Palestinian document of capitulation. With this in mind, the Rabin government seeks to legitimize the existence of the settlements, refuses to withdraw the occupation troops, and continues to repress the Palestinian people and kill their militants.

TISHRIN says that the failure of this agreement is not surprising, because every item in it needs an agreement.

The paper notes that Israeli officials have for some time been propagating the idea of separate solutions. Thus, they are casting doubts about the feasibility of the Washington talks and demanding secret negotiations, such as those which led to the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The paper says that all these moves reveal that the Israeli rulers are not serious about the peace process, and that they seek to undermine the Madrid formula as well as the chances to achieve a just, comprehensive, and real peace that leads to withdrawal of the occupying troops and return of the usurped territories to their lawful owners.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says that before and after the convocation of the Madrid Conference, Syria emphasized time and again that peace in the Middle East depends on two basic factors: Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. This requires full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions in accordance with which the peace process in the region was launched.

TISHRIN on Peres Remarks on Iranian 'Threat'

JN2911083693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN comments on Israel's false arguments, highlighting Israel's suppressive activity in the occupied Arab territories and the continued martyrdom of Palestinian citizens by Israeli gunfire. The Israeli military siege on the West Bank and Gaza is also getting tougher.

The paper cites the Israeli prime minister's spokesman as saying the Israeli forces will not withdraw from the Gaza Strip and that agreement on this issue is postponed. The paper says Israel continues to evade the obligations of the peace process and refuse to implement Security Council resolutions.

TISHRIN adds: Amid these developments, the Israeli foreign minister argues that Iran represents the greatest threat in the Middle East and that Arab states should cooperate with Israel to face this threat. Arab states should also cut military spending and set up an economic bloc with Israel, he said.

The Israeli foreign minister's false arguments are many. His false arguments are deliberate and are meant to mislead world public opinion and cover up Israel's attempts to undermine the peace process, which was launched in Madrid, resumed in Washington, and came recently to a halt because of Israeli evasion of Security Council resolutions.

TISHRIN points out that the Palestinian citizens who are daily killed or injured in the West Bank and Gaza are not being killed by Iranian bullets, but by Israeli bullets. The forces that are armed to the teeth and that besiege our Palestinian people, demolish their homes and neighborhoods, and confiscate their lands are Israeli, and not Iranian, forces. Israel is the party usurping Jerusalem and preventing Palestinians from having access to it. Israel is also the party that is occupying the Golan and southern Lebanon.

The paper adds: Israel has to date refused to respond to the foundations of the Madrid conference and the requirements of just, comprehensive peace in the region. Israel calls on Arabs to abandon their territories and rights and heed an imaginary threat. It also urges them to neglect means of self-defense and engage in its economic schemes.

TISHRIN notes the blackmail practiced by Israel against the United States and other Western nations to acquire more weapons. The Arabs, however, acquire weapons with great difficulty.

The paper concludes: What has become of peace? Peace opportunities have tangibly receded since the endorsement of the Gaza-Jericho deal. The Palestinian arena is seething; suppression is escalating; and the Washington talks have come to a halt. Israel, meanwhile, daily propagates partial deals that represent a flagrant circumvention of the Madrid conference and a treacherous stab to the desired just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Instead of showing a serious spirit to address the threats facing the peace process, Israel wants the Arabs to burn their bridges with brotherly and friendly countries and mortgage their economic future to its schemes. This happens while the occupation is continuing and along with it, our kinsfolk find themselves facing more ordeals and suffering.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Meets Wahdat Opposition Party Leaders

LD2711181293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received and met today at Golkhana Palace of Presidency members of the Central Council of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye of Afghanistan [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan; involved in bitter fighting with government forces in west of Kabul] who have recently arrived in Kabul. The press office of the presidency reported to BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] that the esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, regarding the headquarters transfer of the Central Council of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye from Bamian to Kabul as a useful and constructive action, expressed the hope that this move would bring about the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan so that the past mishaps are not repeated. Hojat-ol Islam Akbari then spoke on behalf of this Council and expressed delight in meeting the esteemed president. He also expressed the hope that the fighting would end and the ground be prepared for the country's revival and construction.

According to another report, a luncheon reception was given today at the Golkhana Palace of the Presidency in honor of the members of the Central Council of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye.

IRNA Reports Hekmatyar's Offer to Resign

LD2811200493 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 28, IRNA—Afghan Prime Minister, Golboddin Hekmatyar, has expressed readiness to resign and submit the country's affairs to a neutral interim government.

Interviewed by IRNA here last night, Hekmatyar stated that he is ready to relinquish his post as prime minister provided President Borhanoddin Rabbani is ready to resign simultaneously.

He suggested establishing a national army consisting of all the afghan armed groups and parties.

Hekmatyar considered "elections" as the only way to solve Afghanistan's plight, saying that the proposed interim government should supervise the elections in that country.

Hekmatyar, who also leads the Hezb-e Islami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], declared his party's readiness to accept unconditional cease-fire in order to halt fighting in north-eastern Kabul.

He felt confident that Rabbani was also reluctant to continue the clashes.

Hekmatyar's forces are involved in clashes with forces of the Afghan Defence Ministry.

Correspondent Scores Hezb-e Eslami Attack

LD2711225693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] What is the message of fighting and the Hezb-e Eslami-e attacks on Tagab to the people of Afghanistan? Now that the future of this fighting has become clearer, one can ask: Is the political retreat of Golboddin Hekmatyar another trick to reach a power monopoly by force? The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] correspondent reports that the attack by the Hezb-e Eslami on Tagab forced the government to defend the Tagab people as the Hezb-e Eslami was seeking to achieve military victory and thus to expand the limit of its power. This failed strategy brought about a major disaster to the civilian population of Tagab. The Tagab fighting brought nothing but the loss of hundreds of people, displacement of thousands of families, and more disaster and poverty. Despite the fact that the Hezb-e Eslami-e made its last efforts and has deepened the ditch of misfortune by collected warmongers from Kandahar, Maydanshahr, Laghman, and Paktia provinces, its designs went nowhere except to bring the forces of the Hezb-e Eslami-e to defeat. Those members of the Hezb-e Eslami-e who had been dispatched from Kandahar to Tagab left Tagab after three days. The Hezb-e Eslami-e forces stationed in Charasiab refused to go to Tagab for fighting; the main perpetrators of fighting in Tagab were condemned by the people, elders, Ulema, intellectuals, and most of the Jehadi formations. Eyewitnesses from Maydanshahr and Paktia say that when the bodies of three members of the Hezb-e Eslami-e, killed in Tagab, were brought to Maydanshahr, the ulema, clergymen, and elders refused to offer funeral prayers for these bodies and regarded them as rebels. Now that the future of the fighting brings the aggressors to a definite defeat in which the Hezb-e Eslami-e has lost the heights around Sorobi and the supply route of Hezb-e Eslami-e along Lataband area has been closed, the activities and [words indistinct] of the peace delegations can be questioned. The peace delegations must take this issue very seriously that if the Hezb-e Eslami-e attack on Tagab was not for the purpose of seeking power than [words indistinct]. The BIA correspondent raised this issue with the people. Most of our compatriots believe that the state and cabinet must carry out useful work for the people, and (?not) cut electric power or stop the transport of basic materials along the highways. Some other people believe that a temporary cease-fire cannot remedy the people's pains. No problem can be solved as long as the Kabul- Jalalabad highway and Naghlu and Sorobi power stations are not demilitarized. In view of some observers the time has come for the state to resolve the issue of Kabul-Jalalabad highway and the power generating stations either by way of fighting or understanding. Otherwise, Golboddin Hekmatyar, by proposing a temporary cease-fire, may make further preparations for other attacks.

Turkmen Consulate Opens in Herat

LD2511180493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] A Consulate of the Republic of Turkmenistan opened recently in Herat Province. Taking part at the ceremony were esteemed General Mohammad Esma'il, governor of Herat and military corps commander of the province; Mr. Qorban Muradov, deputy president of the Republic of Turkmenistan, a number of ulema of Herat city, heads of the state departments, and people of Herat.

Speaking at the meeting, esteemed General Mohammad Esma'il Khan considered the opening of the Turkmenistan Republic's consulate in Herat as an important step toward the strengthening of friendly relations between the states and people of both countries.

Also at the meeting the deputy president of the Republic of Turkmenistan spoke and called the establishment of the consulate as a new phase in the expansion of fraternal links.

A Turkmen delegation which came to Herat returned home after holding friendly meetings with responsible officials of Herat Province.

Culture, Technology Trade With Pakistan Discussed

LD2711213293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] The deputy minister for administration and acting minister of culture and information met this morning in his office the ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. At this meeting esteemed Sayed Eshaq (?Deljo) Hussaini spoke with the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan about the expanding cultural ties, training cadres, and exchanging experts between the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. At this meeting the parties agreed that a delegation of the Ministry of Culture and Information will visit Pakistan, after the completion of work by the joint Afghanistan and Pakistan cooperation commission, for preparing and organizing the program of cultural and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Bangladesh

Muslim Group Protests Clinton-Rushdie Meeting

BK2611151093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 26 (AFP)—Riot police stopped Muslim fundamentalists, protesting against the meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and British author Salman Rushdie, from marching to the American Cultural Centre here Friday, witnesses said.

Some 50 supporters of the Islami Chatra Majlish shouted slogans "Hang President Bill Clinton, Hang Salman Rushdie" and "Down with the U.S."

At a brief rally, yards from the centre, the group's leaders said America was conspiring to destroy Islam and Muslims throughout the world.

However, they later left without any incident.

Clinton and Rushdie, condemned to death by Iran's late Ayatollah Khomeini for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his book the Satanic verses, met Wednesday in Washington.

Rushdie sought U.S. help in lifting the sentence.

Opposition Leader Unhurt in 'Crude' Bomb Attack

BK2711050293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0456 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 27 (AFP)—The acting chief of Bangladesh's opposition Jatiya Party (JP) came under a crude bomb attack in a southern Barisal district, but he was uninjured, it was reported here Saturday.

The daily New Nation newspaper said unidentified assailants blasted two home-made bombs Friday at the door of a room in the government guest house, where Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury was staying in the Patuakhali district.

The attack came amid tension after both the JP, the party of deposed Bangladeshi president Hussain Mohammad Ershad, and members of the youth and student factions of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party called for a rally at the same venue.

The district administration banned all rallies following the development, but clashes erupted after JP held its rally, defying the ban, and came under bomb attack by unidentified individuals during a post-rally march, the Bangladesh Observer said.

It said 30 people were injured in the incident, 20 of them policemen.

Local officials could not be reached for comment Saturday.

Opposition Groups End Parliamentary Boycott

BK2911034093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0332 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 29 (AFP)—Bangladesh's major opposition groups returned to parliament late Sunday, ending a boycott over a row with the speaker Razzak Ali.

The house resumed sitting shortly before midnight after day-long intense negotiations between the government and the opposition.

The speaker told the house that he had decided to reverse his earlier ruling allowing a government privilege motion against the leader of the opposition to be put to the house.

Opposition leader and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed said she would resign if the motions were tabled.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia made a statement to the house clarifying her earlier controversial statement which criticised Wajed, the sources said, adding this also led to the dropping of the opposition privilege motion against Zia, due to come under debate Monday.

India

Delhi Conveys 'Concern' Over Pressler Repeal

BK2711091193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] India has conveyed its concern to Washington at the U.S. Administration's decision to repeal the Pressler Amendment. Under the amendment, the U.S. had stopped its economic and military aid to Pakistan three years ago. India's Ambassador Mr. Siddharta Shankar Ray met the U.S. secretary of state, Mr. Warren Christopher, in Washington yesterday. Mr. Ray is understood to have said that New Delhi is worried at the possibility of resumption of U.S. military aid to Pakistan. Mr. Ray drew Mr. Christopher's attention to Pakistan's support to terrorists in Kashmir. He also raised the issue of the provocative statement made by a senior Clinton administration official last month questioning the status of Kashmir.

Janata Dal Criticizes U.S. Move

BK2711161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] The Janata Dal has criticized Washington's move to repeal the Pressler Amendment. The party spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said in a statement in New Delhi that the move to restore military aid to Pakistan is to put pressure on India on the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] and Kashmir issues.

Media Report Results of State Assembly Elections

Congress-I Wins Himachal Pradesh; BJP, Delhi

BK2811132893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The Congress-I has won an absolute majority in Himachal Pradesh while the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has secured an absolute majority in the Delhi assembly. The BJP is ahead in Rajasthan. In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party-BSP [Bahujan Samajwadi Party] combine is ahead of other partners.

In the 68-member Himachal Pradesh assembly, 55 results have been declared so far. The Congress-I has bagged 41 seats, the BJP eight, and independents six. However, the Congress-I candidate and former speaker of the state assembly, Mrs. (Vidya Stukes) lost in Theog constituency to her BJP rival Mr. Rakesh Verma by a margin of over 1,000 votes. Here is the latest party position in the state. Total seats 68; results declared 55; Congress-I 41; BJP eight; independents six.

In Delhi, the BJP has won 46 of the 66 results declared so far. The party requires just one more seat to get a two thirds majority. The Congress-I has bagged 14, the Janata Dal four, and independents two. [Passage omitted on names of winners from various parties].

In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party-BSP [Bahujan Samajwadi Party] combine continues to maintain its lead. It has bagged 27 out of the 60 results declared so far—the Samajwadi Party [SP] winning 15 and the BSP bagging 12. The BJP is close behind with 20 seats. The Congress-I share is seven seats while Janata Dal has got four seats. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and independents have one each. The Samajwadi Party leader, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has won from his home constituency, Jaswantnagar. He defeated his nearest Congress-I rival Mr. Darshan Singh Yadav by a margin of 1,161 votes. Here is the latest tally: Total seats 425; Elections held 422; Results declared 60; BJP 20; SP 15; BSP 12; Congress-I seven; Janata Dal four; CPI-M one; Independents one.

In Rajasthan, the BJP is ahead securing 22 out of the 41 results announced so far. The Congress-I is following closely with 15 seats. The former chief minister, Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat of the BJP was leading by over 10,000 votes against his nearest rival at the end of counting in Baliconstituency. Former chief minister, Mr. Hardev Joshi, of the Congress-I has retained the Banswara seat defeating his nearest BJP rival by more than 15,000 votes. The latest party position: Total seats 200; Elections held 199; Results declared 41; BJP 22; Congress-I 15; Janata Dal one; Independents three.

BJP, SP-BSP 'Neck and Neck' in Uttar Pradesh

BK2811164593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Assembly election results available from Uttar Pradesh [U.P.] indicate a neck and neck fight between the Samajwadi Party [SP]-BSP [Bhahujan Samajwadi Party] combine and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. In Himachal Pradesh, the Congress-I has already established an absolute majority, while the BJP has secured a two thirds majority in Delhi. In Rajasthan, the BJP is ahead of the Congress-I, but does not have an absolute majority.

Agency reports say that out of the 117 results of the U.P. assembly available so far, the BJP has secured 51 seats, while the BSP-SP combine has secured 49. Of these, SP has got 27 seats, while the BSP has 22. The Congress-I

has won nine seats and the Janata Dal six, while two seats have gone to independents.

According to agency projections, the BJP has emerged as the single largest party in Rajasthan with 93 seats. The Congress-I has 77 seats, the Janata Dal six, and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] one in the 200-member house. Twenty-two seats have gone to independents. Elections were held in 199 constituencies.

In Himachal Pradesh, the Congress-I has secured an asbolute majority and is just short of one seat to secure a two thirds majority. Of the 60 results declared so far, the party has bagged 45, the BJP has won eight, and independents and others seven. Eight results are yet to come in. The former chief minister, Mr. Shanta Kumar, lost his Sulah seat to Mr. Manchand Rana of the Congress-I by a margin of over 3,000 votes. [passage omitted on correspondent's report on the latest position in Himachal Pradesh]

In Delhi, the BJP has secured a two-thirds majority in the 70- member assembly winning 48 of the 69 results declared till now. The Congress-I has bagged 14, the Janata Dal four, independents and others three. [passage omitted]

BJP, SP-BSP Face 'Close Contest'

BK2911040093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Excerpts] In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party [SP-BSP] combine and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] are having a close contest. According to agency reports, the SP-BSP combine has won 106 seats out of the 248 results declared so far. The BJP has secured 105; the Congress-I, 17; the Janata Dal, 10; the CPI [Communist Party of India], two; and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], one. Seven seats have gone in favor of independents and others. [passage omitted]

In Himachal Pradesh, the Congress-I has secured over two-thirds majority. Out of the 68 constituencies, only the Simla result is awaited. The Congress-I has bagged 52 seats; the BJP has won eight; and independents and others, seven. The latest two results from Jwalamukhi and Ani reserved constituencies have gone in favor of the Congress-I. In Ani, Mr. Ishwar Das defeated his nearest BJP rival, Mr. Tej Ram, by over 2,000 votes. Mr. Kewal Singh bagged the Jwalamukhi seat by defeating his nearest BJP rival, Mr. Dhani Ram, by over 2,800 votes. In the Simla constituency, Mr. Rakesh Singhal of CPI-M has secured 159 votes more than his nearest Congress-I rival, Mr. Harbhajan Singh Bhaji, at the end of the counting. The result is yet to be declared officially. Among the prominent losers is the former BJP chief minister, Mr. Shanta Kumar, and several of his cabinet colleagues. Mr. Shanta Kumar lost to his nearest Congress-I rival, Mr. Min Chandra Rana, by a margin of over 3,000 votes in Sula constituency.

The Himachal Pradesh Congress-I president, Mr. Vir Bhadra Singh, has said a meeting of the newly-elected members of the legislature party is being called shortly in Simla to elect the leader. He said that the new government will work for the fulfillment of the promises made to the people in its election manifesto. The union minister of state for communications, Mr. Sukh Ram, told our Simla correspondent that by voting overwhelmingly for the Congress-I, the people of the state have reposed their full confidence in the new economic policies of the prime minister.

All the results have come in from Rajasthan. According to agencies, in the 200-member assembly, the Bharatiya Janata party has emerged as the largest party—securing 93 seats, eight short of a simple majority. The Congress-I got 77; Janata Dal has won six; and CPI-M, one. Independents have claimed 22 seats. However, official announcement has been received only from 77 constituencies of the 199 where elections were held. [passage omitted]

With only one result to be declared for the 70-member Delhi assembly, the BJP has already secured a two-thirds majority, winning 48 seats. The Congress-I is placed second with 14, and Janata Dal has secured four. Three seats have gone in favor of independents and others. The prominent BJP winners include the sitting member of parliament, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana; the sitting metropolitan counselor, Mr. Ram Bhaj; and the cricketer, Kirti Azad. The successful Congress-I nominees are the former mayor of Delhi, Mr. Mahender Singh Sathi; the former DPCCI [Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee-I] president, Mr. Chaudhary Prem Singh; the former chief executive counselor of Delhi, Mr. Jag Pravesh Chandra; and the party's prominent losers include the member of the AICCI [All India Congress Committee-I], Mr. Harcharan Singh Josh; and the general secretary of Mahila [Women] Congress-I, Mrs. Usha Krishna Kumar. The All India Janata Dal general secretary, Mr. Ramvir Singh Bideli, has been elected from Badarpur constituency.

Party Officials on Outcome

BK2911020093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0040 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] The Congress-I is to work for the consolidation of democratic and secular forces in the formation of new governments in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. At its meeting in New Delhi last night, the party's Working Committee adopted a resolution authorizing the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to ensure this. Briefing reporters after the meeting, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the step has been taken as it appears that no party will have a clear majority in the two states. He said the party's strategy will depend on how the picture emerges. Asked whether the Congress-I will extend support to the SP-BSP [Socialist Party-Bahujan Samaj Party] combine in Uttar Pradesh, he said let a request come, we will decide.

The newly-elected BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] legislators are meeting in Delhi today to choose their leader. The party is also holding a meeting in Jaipur. Briefing newsmen after the Central Parliamentary Board meeting in New Delhi, the party general secretary, Mr. Pramod Mahajan, said except for Himachal Pradesh, the party has consolidated its position in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi. He claimed that the party's vote has gone up by 9 percent in Uttar Pradesh.

Violence Reported in West Bengal Local Elections

BK2811145293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] In West Bengal, 60 to 65 percent votes were polled in the Howrah Municipal Corporation elections which were held today. Stray incidents of violence have been reported from north and central Howrah in which at least one person was killed and four others injured. Police fired seven rounds at Golabari and Howrah Sadar to disperse violent groups.

Two Foreigners Among 11 Killed in Kashmir

BK2711160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 11 militants were killed in an encounter with security forces at Sopor in Baramula District today. The encounter started when the militants fired at the security force personnel who were set up at two posts on the Bandipur Road. In the exchange of fire, 11 militants, including two foreigners, were killed. Seven AK-47 rifles were recovered. Some militants set on fire some houses and a gurdwara [Sikh temple]. They also tried to obstruct the movement of fire tenders sent to put out the fire. In another incident, six memmbers of a family were shot dead by militants in Haihama in Kupwara District last night. The killed included a nine-month old child, an eight-year old girl, and two women.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said that a new action plan will be prepared after discussions with various parties to avoid recurrence of crises like Hazratbal. Mr. Chavan told newsmen at Nanded in Maharashtra that the militants holed up in the shrine were equipped with sophisticated communication sets and were in contact with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence.

Abu Nidal Said Planning Murder of Egypt's Mubarak

BK2811061293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0604 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 28 (AFP)—Several (?members) [words indistinct] hardline Palestinian group Abu Nidal have entered India and intend to assassinate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during the Group of 15 summit here next month, a newspaper said Sunday.

The Pioneer, which did not identify the source for its report, said that Egyptian security authorities had been in contact with their counterparts in India concerning the alleged threat to the Egyptian leader.

Government spokesmen here were not immediately available for comment.

Mubarak, who has come out in support of the Israel-PLO autonomy accord opposed by Abu Nidal, is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi on December 13 for the Group of 15 meet.

The Pioneer said that Indian government agencies "believe that some members of the Abu Nidal faction might have already slipped into India under aliases."

It said the possibility of an assassination attempt against Mubarak had sparked "panic" among government departments responsible for the security of visiting dignitaries.

Iran

Yazdi Comments on Rushdie, Human Rights at Friday Prayers

LD2611180193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Yazdi in Tehran on 26 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] I wish to say a few sentences about the situation in America. All of you have learned and have heard on the news—there is no need for discussion and repetition—that American diplomats have been engaged in acts of espionage in Greece and their disgrace has been made public. Were we wrong when we called the American Embassy in Iran the den of espionage, especially under those circumstances?

This is what they are like. What have they been doing in Somalia? Recently, when they promised to arm the Israeli Armed Forces at no cost—and I am not going to list the weapons that they have specified should be given to Israel free and without any payment—they were trying, according to them, to maintain a balance of power in the region. Would this lead to the maintenance of the security of the region or would it disrupt security in the region?

When clearly and officially they say that they will intervene in a certain country—and they even make use of the term intervention—what is the meaning of such remarks?

The recent action by Mr. Clinton himself—I sometimes think to myself that political understanding and political awareness are a problem. Why is it that these gentlemen in America cannot appreciate existing realities in the world as they really are? You must have heard on the Voice of America the discussion by someone who clearly said that, during this period, all the analyses of American decision-makers about Iran have been wrong and they

have not been able to appreciate the realities. Even now this is the case. Even now their analyses are wrong. Political understanding and political awareness are a problem.

I am amazed. Can the leader of a country, especially under conditions when he makes such major claims, overlook more than 1.5 billion [figure as heard] Muslims? I ask Mr. Clinton: Has the author of *The Satanic Verses* not insulted the Prophet of Islam? Has he not insulted Jesus Christ? He has insulted nearly all the great messengers. If you possessed even a minimum degree of political understanding, what would be the political sense in receiving a person who is hated by the Muslims?

I do not wish to refer to your attitude toward Europe, I do not wish to refer to the pressures that you have exerted on Europe to disrupt relations with Iran, that it does not improve relations with Iran, that it may not have exchanges with Iran, and, fortunately, you have not achieved any results, so much so that you noticed that one of the leaders of a European country clearly told America that what you are doing to isolate Iran is a dangerous step. Political awareness is a problem.

Why have you received him? I do not know whether it has involved a deal with Europe or with that European country where that writer resides; but here, on the basis of my calculations, I can emphatically say—His Eminence the Imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise, referring to the American president on one occasion said: He should know that he is the most hated person in the eyes of our nation. I wish to make use of the present situation and emphatically say: Mr. Clinton, you have received a writer who is hated throughout the world of Islam, he is indeed hated throughout the religious world, even in the Christian world, because he has insulted divine prophets and saints. By receiving such a writer, you have earned yourself such a hatred that today I declare that you are the most hated person in the eyes of all the world's Muslims [crowd chants, ending with the chant: Apostate Rushdie should be executed].

This decree was issued by His Eminence the Imam for the whole of the Islamic world, not merely for certain individuals.

My time is short, I therefore need to be quick. Next week, on 7 Azar [28 November] we have the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy Day. I must pay tribute to this great force who guard the country's seas. Praise be to God, both before and after the war they have proven their merits. The recent report by the UN Human Rights Commission's special rapporteur, whose name [Pohl] is familiar to you all, has once again brought some issues into focus; issues that are merely being repeated once again, and I would now like to refer to a number of them. In his report he raised some issues pertaining to the performance of the judiciary, freedom of expression, the press, freedom of religion, the condition of women, and the way the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and the smugglers are dealt with.

Even though I may be repeating myself, I am forced to say this sentence once again about the performance of the judiciary. I have often announced from this tribune that according to the Constitution, in our judicial system trials take place openly and anyone is allowed to attend the sessions. Both sides in a court of law are entitled to the services of a lawyer, and even when one party is not able to hire a lawyer, the judiciary is legally obliged to find them one. Lawyers are thus present at all trials.

Only yesterday there was a trial and because of its sensitive nature I had asked to be informed about its outcome. I was told that one of the parties had earlier said that he needed no lawyer and he would be representing himself. Later on he changed his mind and asked for a lawyer. The court therefore had to be adjourned until a lawyer was found for him. I have stated many times that before the announcement of the court's final verdict one should not make a statement about cases, as this could lead to the needless defamation of someone. Incidentally, the case that I referred to earlier was being dealt with by the revolutionary court. Mr. Galindo Pohl has apparently said that the above-mentioned rules are sometimes not observed in revolutionary courts. That is not the case, as there is no difference between general and revolutionary courts, and the rules and procedures are the same.

About freedom of religion, I do not know, maybe you have heard, two statements were recently released by Jews in this country and the High Council of Armenians and Christians. Was it not formally announced? Does the world not see? Under our Constitution, religious minorities are respected and live alongside the people in our country, under the law. What do you mean when you say religion is not free in Iran?

Of course, if four people spin a yarn and create a religion and sow discord, naturally, we would not allow them to tear the people apart and call it a new religion. Religion has been defined in the world. All the world knows that a religion means it has a messenger of God. [passage omitted]

If a person has no prophet, no imam, no situation, and does not know himself what it is—sometimes he has a God, sometimes a prophet and sometimes an imam—by what right does he say I have a religion? Is our country a thing of ridicule or a toy for four players, or spies of this and that, as it were? Official religions are free. [crowd chants God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, death to America, death to Israel, and a few indistinct slogans]

I am keeping you. Please hear a few more sentences. It is very interesting. He says the press are this and that in Iran. I only had little information, so I was forced to obtain more accurate, up-to-date information from the Intelligence Ministry. It is very interesting for me, too.

First, this is an official report that I have summarized. In our present situation—that is, up to 1.9.72 [21 November 1993], when I received it—642 publications have been granted permits. At present, 417 publications are distributed in the country, 25 on a daily basis, 95 on a weekly basis, 142 monthly, 20 every two months, 91 quarterly, and so forth. You all know that they write everything, but they still say the press are not free in this country.

If a reporter has sometimes been summoned to a court for an unrelated offense, there is a great deal of propaganda over the reason why he has been summoned, while that reporter has not been summoned for an offense related to his work as a reporter. [passage omitted]

You know, if the offense is a journalistic one, that has a separate and independent chapter in our Constitution. According to the Constitution—not ordinary laws—the court must definitely be an open court. This is very interesting. The judge of the court cannot say: In my view it should be in camera. In other instances, the judge has the power to say that the court should sit in camera if the issue of security or public decency requires it. However, this cannot be done for journalistic or political offenses. The text of the Constitution says that the court must be an open court. It further says that it should be in the presence of a jury. The presence of a jury in the court creates a special situation. Basically, those courts are different from other courts. That is a separate issue and I cannot elaborate on it now.

There is an interesting point in that report that has been compiled by one of the researchers in communications. It may be useful if I tell you about it. From all the statistics that I read concerning the press, 60 percent of these publications have been started after the revolution. That is very interesting. [passage omitted] The same precise statistics show us that, as a result of the difficulties created by the war, 40 percent of all those publications were started after the acceptance of the resolution [598, which started the cease-fire in Iran-Iraq war] [passage omitted]

A country that is so ready to allow publication, where so many publications are being published, and where everyone can write whatever he likes, and you still say that there is no freedom here.

I do not have much time. The percentages of technical, general.....It is a very interesting report. How much is for women, for children, for workers, for university people: He has carried out a very interesting study and has given the percentages but I will not take up your time here any longer.

Now my last word to that reporting gentleman. Whatever your ideology, whatever your understanding of what you have gathered about Iran, your expression of concern over our laws of retribution for murder, your expression of concern that we, as they say, take drug smugglers and under certain circumstances—after the confirmation by the attorney general or the head of the Supreme Court—issue death sentences on them, your expression of concern over our death sentence for rape, your expression of concern over the death sentence for those who commit armed highway robbery, well express your concern. We are not worried about your concern or otherwise. First of all, a part of those laws is comprised of divine law, Islamic law. No one can displace them. A part of them is comprised of categorical decisions made by the state. We have decided to fight against the drug smugglers to the end. We have decided to fight against those who are highwaymen, those who create trouble, those who disrupt the security of the state—whether in the west of the country or the east of the country, which you have named in the report. We will definitely fight them. After all, we will not give up the security of our country just to please you! Our laws say that such crimes carry the death sentence. [crowd chants]

Our respected foreign minister has written a letter to the Islamic Conference Organization. Of course what was published, and what I investigated, I obtained a document that followed a decision by the Supreme Court of the usurper Zionist regime. In that decision, the rights of Muslims in Qods have not been taken into account and naturally the respected minister has written a letter to the president of the Islamic Conference regarding that court decision. Let me tell you, while endorsing the Foreign Ministry statement, especially the letter by the respected foreign minister, not only do I tell America and Israel, I tell the world that Qods is the Muslims' first altar, and the struggle and movements will definitely continue until the final liberation of the Qods. [crowd chants God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, death to the anti-revolutionaries, death to hypocrites, death to Israel] [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli Criticizes Clinton-Rushdie Meeting

LD2611192393 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1508 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Friday Prayers sermon by Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli in Qom on 26 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

The Basijis are taking part today in Friday prayers throughout Islamic Iran in general, and in the center of jihad and jurisprudence, the holy city of Qom in particular. There are about 3,000 armed combat forces among you, dear ones, at this time, Including Basiji brothers and sisters. They are the honor of this country. [crowd chants: God is great, Khamene'i is the leader. Death to the hypocrites; and other slogans] [passage omitted] Some have paid their dues, some are waiting to pay their dues. Those who have paid their dues or those who are waiting to do so have never regretted it. [passage omitted]

He who has paid his dues or he who is waiting his turn to do so will not say: I regret it; why did I go to war; why did

we give martyrs, become captives or disabled, or suffered deprivation? If you did what you did in order to right a wrong then you have the right to ask those questions. If you say those things because of your expectations then you are right! But those are minor subsidiary details. The essential is: Let the word of God be supreme. [preceding phrase spoken in Arabic]

You fought for that and that has come to fruition. Now when Clinton wishes to see the evil Rushdie do you know how much he invests? Do you know under what stringent security measures they accept the evil Rushdie in the American get-together? All the money they spent and the extensive security measures is because of the fear of Muslim volunteers living in the United States; otherwise Iran has no presence there! You are not present there. Your thought among the Muslims, the smitten Muslim volunteers of the West makes Rushdie's heart throb as it makes Clinton tremble. [Crowd chants God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, death to arrogance, death to the hypocrites, death to America, and death to Israel]

Presidents of republics, of their kind, have enemies and are in danger from the security point of view. Which president enters the United States with such security measures as Rushdie did to see Clinton? What were they frightened of? Iran has no presence there after all! Iran says: I wish the distance between you and me to be as great as that between the antipodes, let alone between the Middle East and the West. Is it not the voice of you, beloved basiji brothers and sisters, that frightens them? There are several battalions of sister basijis among you here. This is the greatness and glory of women in Islam.

Those are the results of your self-sacrifice. Rushdie leveled the gravest insult against the last of the prophets and now Clinton receives him. Britain makes efforts to prepare for his travels, Europe and the United States endeavor for him to take part in a get-together, temporarily, and receive an honorary professorship. There is no room for concern. [sentence as heard]

To promote virtue is right, to prohibit vice is right, to expect things is right, to demand your dues is right, protesting is right. But let no one, God forbid, say: Why did we go to the battle front? Because you went to the front for the sake of God and to safeguard the Koran and the spiritual heirs.

That is why, when Indonesian President Suharto visited Iran and was received by the honorable leader, his eminence the leader told him: You can see that during the cold season, when oil prices should rise to their highest level, and with the coldest weather in Europe for 70 years, oil prices have instead reached their lowest level—next to nothing. That is the result of the U.S. conspiracy which dominates OPEC. Muslims should wake up. Are you not going to wake up from your sleep? [preceding sentence spoken in Arabic]

Your Excellency Suharto, take this message from a nation which lives in the very heart of Islam to your Muslim and friendly country where more than 180 million Muslims live. Are you not going to wake up from your sleep? You have to wake up sometime; and other Islamic countries should do the same. The benefit of selling the oil for next to nothing goes to the industrial countries and the wretched Third World suffers all the losses.

That is why the sound of Death to America can be heard from all Islamic countries. [Crowd chants: Death to America] [passage omitted]

Press Condemns Clinton-Rushdie Meeting

NC2711094893 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 27 (AFP)—Iranian newspapers on Saturday [27 November] slammed U.S. President Bill Clinton for meeting Salman Rushdie, saying his show of support for the British writer would fail to save Rushdie from death.

"Insulting a religion is not a matter which can be resolved through political means," the daily ABRAR said. "Rushdie is a traitor for wounding the feelings of a billion Moslems and faces a deadend."

JUMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper speculated that Rushdie was seeking permanent residence in the United States because Britain was trying to "get rid of the writer who had become a security risk."

Regardless of where Rushdie lives, "he will not be spared from his act of treason and burn in the fire he has helped to stow," it said.

The radical daily SALAM in turn branded the meeting between Clinton and Rushdie a "blatant provocation" against Iran.

Clinton met Rushdie on Wednesday in Washington in a gesture of support for the novelist, who was condemned to death by Iran's late spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel *The Satanic Verses.*

The Indian-born author, living in hiding since the sentence against him in 1989, has stepped up a campaign to urge Western leaders to pressure Iran into rescinding the death threat.

But Iranian leaders have upheld the sentence, arguing it was a fatwa (religious edict) which cannot be changed. A religious foundation here has offered a reward of two million dollars for anyone who kills Rushdie.

Chief justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi blasted Clinton on Friday for meeting Rushdie, saying the president had become the "most hated" figure in the Moslem world.

"If you had the least political sense, what would be the implication of receiving a man who has insulted the Moslem and Christian prophets?" he asked of Clinton during weekly prayers at Tehran University.

ABRAR: Rushdie At 'Dead End'

LD2811113593 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, OANA-IRNA—A morning daily Saturday [27 November] commented on the last week meeting of the U.S. President Bill Clinton and the apostate Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie. In its commentary 'ABRAR' said Rushdie's visit to the U.S. is an indication to the fact that the apostate writer is now disappointed with Europe. "It seems that Rushdie, who has heard a lot about Clinton-style human rights, hopes to exert fresh pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran through his U.S. visit," the paper added.

It stressed that attempts made by Rushdie and his supporter, British Government, has so far remained idle because the death sentence for Rushdie, issued by the late Imam Khomeyni, was in accordance with Islamic laws and, therefore, no authority or government could cancel it.

"However, the apostate author of the highly sacrilegious book *THE SATANIC VERSES* does not apprehend that even a positive promise by the U.S. Adminitration cannot relieve feelings of one billion Muslims throughout the world," the paper noted.

The article concluded by saying that in the opinion of the world Muslims, Rushdie is a traitor who has reached a dead end.

Commentary Views U.S. Defense Official's Mideast Tour

NC2811212093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Middle East and Persian Gulf countries are faced with a new U.S. political endeavor that was launched last Friday, 26 November. A U.S. assistant secretary of defense, leading a military delegation, arrived in the region on a tour that will take him to a number of countries. Official U.S. sources say that the goal of this tour is to seek the support of Persian Gulf Arab countries and a number of Middle East countries for idea of deploying U.S. troops and stationing U.S. military hardware in the region.

U.S. political and military experts justify the new policy by arguing that Iranian policies pose a threat to the security of Persian Gulf countries. The Pentagon, according to these experts, seeks to consolidate and strengthen Arab countries in the region in order to enable them to confront the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Political affairs experts see nothing new in the recent U.S. move in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf region. The United States has consistently sought to consolidate its military presence in the region in the past. U.S. efforts and endeavors in this regard gathered momentum following the outbreak of the second war in the Persian Gulf region, the oil war that occurred as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

It is increasingly clear that the attempts to reinforce U.S. military presence in the region have been consolidated into a permanent and comprehensive U.S. policy. U.S. officials seeking to dispatch troops, weapons, and hardware to the region are making no secret of their objectives.

Observers see two basic factors behind this U.S. endeavor. One is the traditional competition for the Middle East weapons market among America, Russia, and Europe. The other is the U.S. Administration's alarm at the fact that a number of Arab countries have voiced their desire to upgrade their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, a wish that conflicts with U.S. political objectives in the region.

Considering all the above things, it seems logical for Western countries, particularly the United States, which gets considerable money from the sale of weapons to the Third World and to oil-rich Arab countries in the Persian Gulf area, to be alarmed at imaginary dangers and threats in the Persian Gulf area. One of the aims of this alarm is to get countries in this region to embark on further purchases of weapons and hardware. Obtaining a monopoly on the region's arms market is another aim. Countries in the region have also been encouraged to form new military pacts, a useless endeavor, but one guaranteed to boost arms sales.

Needless to say, such a policy has its inherently sinister repercussions. Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region have not yet forgotten the negative cultural, ethical, and social impact of the U.S. military presence on their territories.

The U.S. assistant secretary of defense, in his tour of Middle East and the Persian Gulf region, faces a difficult task. His success depends on establishing new security arrangements in the region under the auspices of the United States and blocking political and economic cooperation between Iran and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. This is where the issue is most sensitive. So far, many of these countries, despite U.S. political and media efforts, have shown a clear aversion to the U.S. policy of confrontation with Iran. Countries in this region happen to believe that cooperation with Iran is instrumental to maintaining security in the Persian Gulf.

U.S. Seen Creating 'Tension' Over Abu Musa Island

LD2911110493 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' here Monday [29 November] said the last week appointment of a new governor in the Iranian island of Abu Musa tempted Western mass media to spread the false news that Iran had for the first time assigned a governor for the island.

"There has never been a time, after the revolution, when Abu Musa Island did not have a governor, and what is more, there have been several replacements in the island governor's office in recent years," the daily noted in its editorial.

Therefore, the daily argued, the regional Arab political leaders should answer to this question what groups are trying to create tension in the region and what are their objectives.

Referring to the forthcoming visit of the U.S. undersecretary of defense to the region, the article added, "To prepare the necessary background for his trip, the U.S. mass media have announced that a tense atmosphere dominated the region."

Today, said the daily, it seems that American interests have to be served through creation of new tension in the region. "The presence of the U.S. undersecretary of defense in the region in the coming days is to prepare the stage for creation of tension between Iran and the southern Persian Gulf littoral states," concluded the article.

Commentary Views Reasons for U.S. Safety Advisories

LD2811132793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the past two days, American embassies in Asia and Oceania have warned U.S. nationals living abroad against violent actions taken by the people.

The issued statements consider the possibility of the staging of popular anti-U.S. rallies as a major factor threatening Americans.

The U.S. authorities' fear of attacks staged by the people against American embassies and nationals is nothing new. In the past, when U.S. officials' incompetent actions led to crises, general communiques were also issued asking American nationals to look after their lives and the government offices all over the world. But this time such warnings seem to be more serious.

What is certain is that America's fear stems from the boiling wrath of the people of the world. There are different reasons for the hatred and disgust of the people from all over the world.

The first reason is America's aggressive nature. The recent events in Somalia and Haiti show America's interventionist nature.

The second reason is the showing of strength and the adoption of methods to intimidate other countries. America's concern about the daily increasing power of Islamic and revolutionary societies has even forced the Pentagon to engage in new activities.

The third reason is America's support for international terrorism. Not only Asia and Africa, but even Europe suffers from American-supported terrorism. What we recently witnessed in Greece was an obvious example of American terrorism to which an appropriate reply was given by the arrest of the armed U.S. diplomats.

The fourth reason is America's support for the Zionists against the Muslim people of the region. The allocation of more than three billion dollars to safeguard the Israeli entity is aimed at the realization of the same goal.

And finally, belittling the beliefs of over one billion Muslims and ignoring the aspirations of the freedom-loving people of the world are other reasons for this.

In fact, all these reasons explain why American embassies in Asia and Oceania are forced to warn American nationals not to attend popular gatherings.

Of course another reason for the existence of such threats against Americans is that country's military personnel wearing civilian clothes and wandering around in the cities in their respective mission areas. It is obvious that the wrath and hatred of the people of Asia and North Africa, more than anything else, is aimed at the U.S. military personnel who directly participate in crimes committed against the people in different countries.

Talks With United States Ruled Out

NC2711115693 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Nov 93 p 2

[Majid Reza'iyan commentary: "Talks With World Dictatorship"]

[Text] The international press is appraising U.S.-Iranian relations and analyzing the superpower's performance and conduct, elucidating many points that characterize Iranian foreign policy today.

Undoubtedly, assessing these relations in this way clearly shows new realities; this clearly belies the thinking of the "overawed elements" and "weak-willed" in Iran.

There wasn't much time between an article on "direct relations" and the "dissemination of a letter by a deputy in the fourth Majles," but numerous events have occurred in this period to further expose the true nature of the United States and motivate the public to review their judgment.

This interpretation and the extremely subtle point stated by the great leader—"The United States has initiated a bloodthirsty world dictatorship and we will never hold talks with an international dictator"—give new meaning to U.S.-Iranian relations and accentuate the fallacious praise by the simpleminded elements of yesterday and today.

If we wish to analyze the conduct of those who play a role in U.S. political and security policies from the perspective of international relations, perhaps the most complete interpretation and analysis would be the same as above. Obviously, we should ask: Why should there be talks with an international dictator?! This is the simplest message we can glean from the supranational international policy of the United States.

Why couldn't those elements who advocated talks and forging relations with the United States come to this simple conclusion and to the same extent? Instead, they sought to propagate their own thinking and to make their murmurs louder by the day. These elements used the prestige of the country's active political parties to project themselves as anti-American.

We should be vigilant because at any moment, the overawed elements with numerous weaknesses could infiltrate and drag the Islamic revolution to the wrong path internally. This issue highlights the need for "political acumen," which the great leader has particularly stressed.

Society should be vaccinated so that its germs do not have the chance to multiply; otherwise, the "closed dossier" may be reopened by those who wish ill or who are weak-willed.

It would be appropriate if the acceptable political trends in the country could purge these unacceptable elements that were a heartache to the late imam and remain so to the heart of the great leader. This would be a political purging, that is, a display of the same political acumen that the great leader wants from us.

If we do this today, soon we can prevent these simple-minded elements and other sycophants from capitalizing on the popularity of the country's political trends for their own ends and from using others as stepping stones for their own progress.

Editorial Protests Human Rights Charges

NC2711093293 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Human Rights as a Political Tool"]

[Text] In its recent report the United Nations Human Rights Committee condemned Iran for alleged violations of human rights.

In parts of its report, the UN Human Rights Committee refers to some of the Iranian nation's cultural and religious practices as cases of violation of the human rights.

The UN Human Rights Committee obviously ignores the fact that social practices and ethical norms in each society are deeply rooted in that society's cultural background. And just because parts of the accepted values in a certain society do not conform with the Western conception of the accepted social behavior or the Western idea of the human rights, it does not mean that human rights have been violated in that society.

Furthermore, the above report bases its conclusions on reports announced by the opponents of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and have never been confirmed by reliable official sources.

Consequently it can be rightly claimed that all the cases referred to in the UN Human Rights Committee report are either derived from lack of adequate knowledge of the cultural elements or social values observed in Islamic communities, or are based on misinformation, hostile propaganda and lies. Naturally such conclusions could have little relationships to human rights considerations.

Of course the human rights issue could be looked at from another angle. The Human Rights Proclamation incorporates a set of values for which social manifestations could be found in Western communities. This is of course only to be expected for those values have sprang from the cultural backgrounds of those communities.

But does that give the Western communities the right to judge with their own specific criteria other communities that may have different sets of values?

In so far as each community has its own sets of values and its own ethical standards, the discrepancies between what is accepted as social norms in the West and what is practiced in other communities, does not mean that human rights are not observed in the latter group of communities. It only demonstrates that each nation values human beings and their rights on the basis of its specific culture which is deeply rooted in its beliefs and past history.

But the realities of the contemporary world clearly prove that the great political powers are abusing the issue of human rights for their own specific political ends. Accordingly any country that is not among the allies of the Western countries, is constantly accused of violation of the human rights, without any substantial evidence and only on the strength of unreliable and false reports.

Conversely, all those countries which regulate their foreign policies in line with the interests of the Western governments, are immune from any allegations even if they commit the most horrible crimes against humanity.

Oil Ministry Plane Hijacked To Iraq 29 Nov

LD2911111193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1054 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] The state civil aviation organization announced: This morning a [Fokker] Friendship plane belonging to the Oil Ministry was hijacked en route from Gachsaran to Ahvaz and Abadan. The plane was carrying 35 passengers and three flight crew.

According to a report from the state civil aviation organization, the hijacked plane has landed safely at Basra Airport. No information is available yet on the hijackers' identity.

No Foreign Nationals Aboard

LD2911140793 Tehran IRNA in English 1352 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—There is no foreign national on board the Iranian aircraft hijacked to Iraq shortly after taking off from Gachsaran Airport in south of Iran today, an official at Civil Aviation Organization said. He added that six women and eight children are among the passengers. There are also nine patients who were flying to Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, for medical treatment, the official said.

The hijacked plane, a Fokker Friendship F-27 with 35 passengers and three crew, first tried to land in Kuwait but after failing to receive permission it changed its course towards Iraq and landed in al-Basrah. Investigation is underway to indentify the hijackers.

Caller Claims MKO Responsible

LD2911144293 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—The Iraq-based terrorist Mujahideen [Mojahedin-e] Khalq Organization (MKO) Monday [29 November] claimed responsibility for hijacking an Iranian aircraft with 38 passengers and crew aboard en route from Gachsaran to Ahvaz in Khuzestan Province. A man who claimed to be speaking from Paris, told IRNA on the telephone that the plane had landed in the southern Iraqi port city of al-Basrah following a decision made by the MKO.

The Farsi-speaking caller threatened that the terrorist organization would take similar action in the future. He declined to specify the motives behind the hijacking but said the hijackers were in contact with the MKO ringleader Mas'ud Rajavi who is now based in Iraq.

The plane, a Fokker Friendship F-27 chartered by the Iranian Oil Ministry, was hijacked and diverted to Kuwait and then to Iraq after Kuwaiti authorities refused to permit it to land in Kuwait.

Over the past 45 days, MKO terrorists launched aggressions on western Iranian border villages from inside Iraq, killing eight civilians including two children. Last month, MKO members threw hand grenades at the French Embassy and Air France office in Tehran which caused damage but no casualties.

The aircraft with 35 passengers and three crew took off from Gachsaran Airport at 07:55 hours local time (04:25 gmt) en route to Ahvaz and Abadan.

Political observers believe that MKO's action in hijacking the aircraft was aimed at covering up intergroup differences sparked by fleeing to Paris of the MKO ringleader's wife Maryam Rajavi along with some of her supporters.

Despite today's telephone call to IRNA by an MKO representative, AFP in a news dispatch from Paris quoted an MKO spokesman based in the French capital as denying MKO involvement in the hijacking. It is not the first time that MKO has denied perpetrating a terrorist act. It has also denied involvement in other acts of terrorism over the past 45 days including attack on the French Embassy here.

An MKO member who was recently arrested for being involved in the attack on the French Embassy here, told reporters that MKO had ordered the attack.

Commentary Views Iraqi Stance on UN Resolution

NC2711091693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Iraqi foreign minister sent a letter to the UN secretary general stating Iraq's acquiescence to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 715 and expressing the hope that this positive step by Iraq will see the Security Council taking steps to lift the embargoes against Iraq.

Resolution 715, which was approved with the aim of restricting Iraq's military capability, envisages control of its nuclear and chemical weapons and ballistic missiles in the long term.

International pressure may have found Iraq accepting the implementation of the resolution on supervision of its arms program, but as for the method of implementation, Iraq seeks to present varying analyses of the resolution's content to mitigate the resulting pressure and capitalize on it to have the Security Council sanctions lifted.

Nearly five months ago, when the Security Council entered the fray to install a long-range telescope on an Iraqi missile base, Iraqi officials linked it with the talks on the export of Iraqi oil that were going on and thus strove to pave the way for the sale of Iraqi oil.

That said, the Security Council stated that lifting the sanctions on Iraq did not require only the acceptance of the resolutions, but also of the conditions that would ensure Iraq's commitment to effectively implementing the resolutions.

Now that Iraq has officially announced that it accepts Resolution 715 as a positive step on its part and has called for the lifting of sanctions, the head of the commission for disarming Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, has stated that

the conditions are not yet conducive to lifting the sanctions against Iraq. Among the reasons he gave are that Iraq has not submitted a list of countries assisting it in the manufacture of nuclear and chemical weapons to the United Nations. Such a list is considered fundamental to the long-term control of Iraq's military program.

Ekeus has stated that in six months, when it becomes clear that Iraq is serious about implementing the Security Council resolutions, decisions will be made on lifting restrictions on it.

Iraqi Minister's Postponed Trip Seen as 'Protest'

NC2711104393 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Bitter Experience Has Taught Them Nothing"]

[Text] The Iraqi Foreign Ministry Undersecretary, Sa'd al-Faysal, who was to arrive in Tehran last Friday—to reciprocate the trip made to Baghdad by the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, Dr. Javad Zarif—has postponed his trip for undeclared reasons.

It is true of course that Zarif's trip to Baghdad had been postponed several times, political observers believe the Iraqi government has postponed its foreign ministry undersecretary's trip to Iran as a sign of protest against the trip of the UN delegation to Iran who intend to conduct investigations concerning the accusation of Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons against the Shiite population in the southern regions of that country.

If that interpretation is valid, then we can only express regret at Iraq's inability to learn anything from the disastrous political and military mistakes of the past decade.

To begin with, political leaders in Baghdad should realize that Iran has not invited the UN delegation. The United Nations authorities have decided to conduct such an investigation on their own initiative.

But there should not have been any reason for complaint even if Iran had in fact invited the UN delegation. Political leaders in Baghdad must understand that international conditions have undergone a lot of changes since the 80s.

There was a time when Iraq could massacre with chemical weapons 5,000 men, women and children in Halabja in one day, or make repeated use of chemical weapons against the Iranian combatants at battlefronts, while the world, particularly the international organizations maintained a calculated silence. But now that the nature of that regime has been known to the world they can no longer commit with impunity such dreadful crimes.

If what has been said about your use of chemical weapons against the civilians in the southern Iraq were to remain unsubstantiated accusations, and the investigating delegation were to declare that Iraq has made no use of chemical weapons, then that would be a great victory for you.

On the other hand if the investigators were to confirm Iraq's use of chemical weapons, then the Baghdad leaders would have to prepare themselves for new punishments by the international community.

In either case the postponement of the [visit by the] Iraqi foreign ministry undersecretary will serve no purpose and will only delay the resolution of difficulties in the relations between the two countries. Deployment of chemical weapons against the Shiite population in the southern regions of that country. [sentence as published]

Mohajerani, Syrian Envoy on Israeli-PLO Accord

NC2911080893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Today, 29 November, has been named world day of solidarity with the people of Palestine. Some 46 years ago today the Muslim Palestinians were forced out of their homes and territory by a wretched plot and the Zionists occupied that territory.

At the time, the Human Rights Declaration signed by every government—most notably the Western governments, Britain and America in particular—expressed respect for every nation's right to exist and considered this a basic right. However, apart from an ostensible condemnation, no Western government did anything to punish the aggressor and revive the rights of the Muslim Palestinians. Now, almost 50 years later, international forums remain silent about the aggression, massacre, tortures, and, in short, the violation of human rights by the Zionists in Palestine.

On the world day of solidarity with the Muslim people of Palestine, our political correspondent Qoroqi interviewed the official in charge of the committee in support of the Palestinian revolution. Our correspondent asked Mohajerani to comment on the situation in Palestine in view of the Gaza-Jericho accord and on the stance of Islamic countries on the Palestinian problem. He said:

[Begin Mohajerani recording] On 13 September, when the PLO-Israeli accord known as the Gaza-Jericho Accord was signed, they thought the move and this accord would be widely received by the Palestinians. It was also foreseen that the people of Palestine and the Islamic inclination in the occupied territory, especially of the youths who form the main body and main elements of the intifadah, would not accept this accord; this is what happened. In recent weeks, we have witnessed more severe suppression and the martyrdom of outstanding personalities from Palestine's Islamic inclination—Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement]. We also saw more extensive operations by the Islamic Jihad movement.

Clearly the intifadah in Gaza cannot be considered to have ended with the Gaza-Jericho accord signed by the PLO. In short, the Gaza-Jericho Accord was the turning point for a movement on the Palestinian scene, the political and submissive movement that was helpless, lacked identity, and thought it had no alternative, but to submit. We also witnessed the intifadah movement peaking and expanding to rise in front of this submissive movement. The intifadah is a resistance movement, an expression of negation, and a rejection of what has happened.

As for the Islamic nations and countries, unfortunately, the Gaza-Jericho Accord was the fruit of the tree of discord of the Islamic nations and countries reaped by the Israelis. What happened was a result of the discord in the world of Islam and in the Arab countries. The fruit of this tree was the Camp David accord, which Egypt planted.

Fortunately, despite all the despondency stemming from the general picture painted by the Islamic countries, our country stands like a point of resistance. It is a cry of resistance. Our country has confronted the decisions that were made on the Palestinian nation's fate. I think this opposition by us—a country like Iran with the legitimacy and credibility arising from its Islamic revolution—and Iran's declared opposition to this accord encourages Islamic movements such as Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and all the Palestinian refugees who have been ignored in the Gaza-Jericho Accord. [end recording]

Our political correspondent Qoroqi also met the Syrian ambassador in Tehran to prepare a report on the world day of solidarity with the Muslim Palestinian nation.

[Begin recording] [Qoroqi] I asked him to comment on the PLO-Tel Aviv accord and on the conditions thereafter of the intifadah in the occupied territories. He said:

[Syrian ambassador in Arabic with superimposed translation into Persian] It is the duty of Muslims everywhere to liberate the first kiblah of the Muslims from the clutches of the occupiers of Jerusalem. The people of Syria too, like the other Muslim nations, consider the Palestinian problem to be the biggest one.

While the West is trying to imply to the world that everything ended with the PLO-Tel Aviv accord, we should accept the reality that the intifadah continues to burn because none of the objectives and rights of the Palestinian people have been fulfilled.

As long as the regime occupying Jerusalem does not withdraw from the occupied territories and the rights of the Palestinian people are not ensured, we will not give in to compromise with Israel. [end recording]

Commentary Notes Problems Faced by PLO-Israeli Accord

NC2911091293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The 'Arafat-Tel Aviv accord is stuck in a tug-of-war of interests of the PLO and Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said the timetable set for Israel's withdrawal from the autonomous Gaza-Jericho Accord is not a divine revelation that Israel should obey.

The wave of massacres, suppression, and bombardment of the Palestinians in the occupied territories in south Lebanon, including many rebel Palestinian forces that support 'Arafat, have greatly enraged the Palestinians. The Zionist regime says 'Arafat does not have the strength to control the Palestinian opponents of the accord and that Israel is therefore trying to uproot them before withdrawing.

But this situation has placed 'Arafat in an unfavorable position. He can't condemn the Israeli regime's killing of the Muslim Palestinian people and their combatant leaders as easily as he condemned the killing of an armed Zionist living in the Zionist settlements in the occupied territories. This has made those Palestinians who thought the 'Arafat-Tel Aviv accord would enrich the economy and create political independence realize bitterly that they had attached hopes only to a mirage.

'Arafat finds himself in an unfavorable situation and, since he can't directly attack Israel's violent acts, he has resorted to political overtures within the framework of the accord and is protesting, saying Israel has tried to sabotage the talks with the PLO.

The representatives of 'Arafat and of Israel will continue their talks tomorrow, although these may be postponed for a few days in the tug-of-war of the two sides' interests. Israel's current behavior has sparked off a vicious circle in the occupied territories. On the pretext that there are forces opposing the accord, Israel is intensifying the suppression of the Palestinians and postponing its withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. But this intensifying violence is making things worse in the occupied territories, leading to new uprisings, and mobilizing the public against the accord.

'Arafat is losing what remains of general Palestinian support instead of gaining Gaza and Jericho. Finally, it is a point in the favor of the success of the opposition and Islamic groups that have made things difficult for the accord and its supporters, even though there is a long way to go before it disintegrates.

Armenia Urged Not To 'Jeopardize' Relations

NC2911094393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Based on reports quoting Radio Baku, Armenian troops—after occupying the last positions of the Azeris south of the city of Dzhebrail in the vicinity of the joint Iran-Azeri Khoda Afarin Dam along the Iranian frontier, have looted all the technical and engineering equipment belonging to Iran and Azerbaijan. The National Security Ministry of the Republic of Azerbaijan in a statement, announced Armenian troops in their attacks launched Thursday [25 November] against the Azeri army's position in the Khoda Afarin region also shelled the Iranian frontier areas.

In this way, the Armenian troops—while occupying over 160 square km of the Azeri soil and capturing its border checkpost—also brought under their control a relatively vast section of the Azeri territory close to the Iranian frontiers. Based on incoming dispatches, the Azeri forces—after resisting the Armenian army for five hours—were forced to retreat.

It must be pointed out that Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan over the past two years were engaged in constructing a major dam and installing technical equipment for electricity generation from it. But executive operations on this joint project were halted following the collapse of the towns of Fizuli and Dzhebrail last summer. Upon a request from the Azeri officials, [Iranian troops] had assumed the responsibility for protecting the equipment present at the dam site in the region.

Invasion by the Armenian troops against the southern regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the subsequent occupation of Azeri towns and villages over the past one year have led to the homelessness of a huge number of residents of these regions.

The recent onslaught came at a time when Iran has repeatedly protested against the escalation of war by the Armenian forces and on numerous occasions has called for a consideration of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict by competent international forums. Tehran has also pointed to the dangerous consequences of this war. In the same connection, the Islamic Republic of Iran—in a letter addressed to the UN Security Council chairman—has explicitly declared that the aggressions of the Armenian army are viewed as a destabilizing factor along the Iranian borders since these threaten regional peace and security.

This is at a time when the UN Security Council, despite a long wait on the part of the Baku Government, has not taken any effective measure to terminate the regional crisis so far. Among the steps taken without any sanction by the Security Council in connection with the ongoing war in the region is the mere issuance of Resolutions 822, 853, 874, and 884 in which the warring sides have been urged to show self-restraint and the need for the withdrawal for the Armenian troops from the Azeri territory has been stressed. Such a move has not had any noticeable effect in terminating the conflict.

In the opinion of analysts, the Yerevan government today is precisely aware of the undeclared backing of the West for Armenia's hostile measures. As a matter of fact, by exploiting this opportunity, Armenia is continuing to occupy new regions of Azerbaijan through killing the people and rendering thousands of Azeri residents homeless.

At any rate, it is expected that the Armenian officials—in consideration of the significance of Yerevan-Tehran relations—would refrain from pursuing their current policy which is bound to jeopardize good neighborliness between the two countries and would speedily open peace talks to attain a just political solution to this conflict.

SALAM Editor To Be Tried by Revolutionary Court

NC2711152493 Paris AFP in English 1414 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 27 (AFP)—The chief editor of a radical Iranian newspaper, SALAM, is to stand trial before a revolutionary court here, the daily reported Saturday [27 November].

The court on Wednesday summoned for questioning Abbas 'Abdi, who was arrested in August for unspecified offenses, but adjourned the proceedings after the defendant asked that he be represented by an attorney, SALAM said.

'Abdi, a leader of the radical students who seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979 and held its staff hostage, had been a vocal critic of the government's policies.

Iran's chief justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, in a brief reference to 'Abdi's case, implied Friday the charges brought against the editor were not related to journalistic offenses.

SALAM has criticized the decision to try 'Abdi in a revolutionary court, which is designed to deal with anti-government activities, as well as corruption and drug-related offenses.

New Foreign Exchange Regulations Introduced

LD2811141593 Tehran IRNA in English 1323 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—According to new regulations set by the committee to monitor open money market, as of today foreign currencies needed for imports will be provided directly by the banking system after importers register their orders at the Commerce

Ministry. The decision was made at Saturday's session of the committee which was presided over by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The new regulations were compiled following the recent fluctuations in money market which resulted in an unprecedented increase in the rates of foreign currencies. Foreign currencies at non-commercial rates will be sold to patients, students abroad and government personnel on missions abroad. Travellers can take with them a maximum amount of dlrs. 5,000 for each passport.

In the past few days, the U.S. dollar was traded at rls. [rials] 1,920 while today it was traded at rls. 1,775 and there was no crowd of people in front of banks to buy foreign currencies.

Pakistan

Minister on Kashmir Issue, Pressler Amendment

BK2711085893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] The federal minister for Kashmir and northern areas, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan, has described Indian willingess to discuss the Kashmir dispute as a great success to Pakistan. He said that it was for the first time that India had agreed to negotiate specifically on Kashmir. Talking to APP in Islamabad, he said Pakistan remains committed to the UN resolution on Kashmir [word indistinct]. He said it wanted to resolve the issue on the basis of the UN resolution and Simla accord.

The minister said the Clinton Administration is now moving toward scrapping the Pressler Amendment which is by no means a small achievement in such a small period.

Editorial Views U.S. Stance on Nuclear Issue

BK2711093393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 27 Nov 93 p 6

[Editorial: "US Prescriptions"]

[Text] In a Worldnet television dialogue the other day, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Non-Proliferation Robert Einhorn, while spelling out his country's policy on the nuclear issue in South Asia, revealed the fundamentally flawed and lop- sided nature of that position. The main US thrust is to get both Pakistan and India to cap, roll back and discontinue their nuclear programmes. In the case of India, the US did not impose any nuclear restraint on India during the cold war or after. On the contrary, in spite of the so-called "peaceful" explosion of a nuclear device by India in 1974, cooperation continues since 1963 over nuclear fuel for the Tarapur facility. Only in Pakistan's case, threatened as it was by the development of India's nuclear bomb, has a country- specific law been applied to cut off all aid, military and economic, and even violate contractual obligations, as in the case of the F-16s. All this despite the fact that Pakistan has repeatedly stated that its nuclear programme is for purely peaceful purposes and whatever capability it may or may not have acquired has been partly in response to the cut-off of conventional weapons flows which has created a military imbalance in South Asia, and partly out of a perceived security threat because of mounting tensions over the Indian campaign of brutal suppression in Kashmir. Further, Pakistan has clearly shown its non-proliferationist intent by agreeing to discuss bilateral, regional or multilateral arrangements to bring about a nuclear-free South Asia. It is India which refuses to contemplate any or all of these possibilities, furthering fuelling the concerns of its neighbours and helping to accelerate the crippling arms race in the Subcontinent. The discriminatory nature of the Pressler Amendment combined with the perceived US 'soft' attitude towards the Indian nuclear programme belies the US claims of an even-handed policy and encourages Indian intransigence.

The Clinton Administration, in a belated but welcome recognition of the ground realities, has adopted a more realistic position which may be helpful if it wishes to play a positive role vis-a-vis tensions on the Subcontinent. The one-sided Pressler Amendment, pending its total scrapping if Congress can be persuaded to see that it has failed to fulfil its objective of nuclear non- proliferation while damaging Pak-US relations, is sought to be circumvented by an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act which would give the US President discretionary powers to exempt Pakistan or any other country from an aid cut-off. Pakistan must be assured of the minimum wherewithal to be able to defend itself against any threat from India, India's campaign of genocide against the Kashmiris must be halted, and the exercise of the right of self- determination guaranteed to the Kashmiris under the UN resolutions implemented. The proposed law may pave the way for the US to use its good offices in persuading India to seriously consider this core agenda, which could create the possibility of a mutual climbdown on the nuclear issue in South Asia. Failing that, and given India's continued policy of brutal repression in Kashmir and threatening posture towards Pakistan, it would not be feasible for Pakistan to barter away its security. As PM [Prime Minister] Benazir Bhutto has stated, to contemplate any unilateral roll back of our nuclear programme (let alone its discontinuation) is out of the question.

Bhutto Hoping for Pressler Amendment Waiver

BK2711152693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, today launched her government's most ambitious program of giving propriety rights to thousands of residents of the kachi abadi [slum] in the Punjab Province. The prime minister flew into Lahore today, to personally give away propriety rights to the residents of the kachi abadi. The propriety right-giving ceremony was held at the historic Mochi Gate. She was enthusiastically welcomed by the people of Lahore. Addressing the gathering, the prime

minister said the people's elected government wanted to make Pakistan a social democratic country where social and economic justice is provided to all citizens in accordance with the teachings of the Qaid-i-Azam [Father of the nation Mohammad Ali Jinnah] and Allama Iqbal. The prime minister said she values the security of a house as she has gone through the experience of a shelterless person during her long struggle for restoration of democracy and people's rights in the country. She said with the election of the people's own government in free and fair election, political stability has been established in the country. This will be followed by economic stability and prosperity of the people. The prime minister said that her government's negotiations with the International Money Fund have been successful. She expressed the hope that the restrictions imposed on Pakistan under the Pressler Amendment by the United States will also be waived. The prime minister said for the first time, the Indian Government has also agreed to hold meaningful talks with Pakistan on the question of Jammu and Kashmir. She said this is the success of Pakistan's principled stand with regard to the future of the disputed territory. The prime minister said her government would devote her energy to the solution of Pakistan's outstanding internal and external problems.

Later, the prime minister gave away propriety rights to the residents of the kachi abadi. PTV representative says there are more than 300 kachi abadis in Lahore city only. Thousands of families will benefit from this program. For the first time, the government is not charging any price for the land and the residential plots are being given free of cost in this locality.

Editorial Hails Pressler Amendment Review

BK2811102293 Islamabad PAKISTAN TIMES in English 28 Nov 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Stand Vindicated"]

[Text] A Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman has welcomed the U.S. government's move to scrap the controversial Pressler Amendment, saying that it was a vindication of Pakistan's principled stand on the issue. He maintained that the Amendment had created a serious strategic imbalance in the region and reiterated that Pakistan's broad policy objective has always been nuclear non- proliferation in South Asia on a non-discriminatory basis. As pointed out by the Foreign Office official. the Pressler Amendment which basically sought to achieve nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia has proved counter-productive and created a grave strategic imbalance in the region, with India going ahead full-steam with its vast nuclear and conventional armament production programmes. Ironically enough, while Pakistan was singled out for a total ban on all U.S. economic and military aid merely on suspicion of its being engaged in a defence-related nuclear programme, the Amendment in effect provided a clean bill to India which conducted a nuclear explosion way back in 1974. The sheer unfairness and absurdity of this selective application of the ban has been brought home to the U.S. Administration by Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's government, especially during the recent visit to Pakistan of the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Ms. Robin Raphel.

So blatantly discriminatory is the Amendment in its spirit that it specificaly names Pakistan for its application. It requires the U.S. President to send a waiver to Congress every year if he is satisfied that Islamabad was not using nuclear energy for military purposes. It is obvious that so long as Washington continues to apply the discriminatory Pressler Amendment against Islamabad, India would not respond to any meaningful nonproliferation arrangement in South Asia. The Pressler Amemendment was made applicable only to Pakistan through the reversal in 1991 of an earlier decision under which the U.S. President was required to certify the non-posession by both India and Pakistan of military capability in nuclear arms in order for them to qualify for U.S. aid. The Amendment has thus foisted on Pakistan the dubious distinction of being the only country in the world to have been denied U.S. economic and military assistance on this score. However, during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the subsequent armed resistance mounted by the Mujahideen, Presidents Reagan and Bush had continued to issue the waivers dutifully only to further the U.S. strategic interests. But with the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, Pakistan's incipient energy-oriented nucelar programme assumed vast ominous dimensions in the U.S. perception and all economic and military aid to Pakistan was stopped in October 1990. Now that the futility of the Pressler Amendment has dawned upon the Clinton Administration, the U.S. Congress is expected to adopt soon the New Foreign Assistance Act which would be applicable to New Delhi as well with regard to its military-oriented nuclear programme. Under the new law India would also be liable to face sanctions and Washington would then be in a better position to apply effective pressure on New Delhi to agree to a nuclear-weapons ban with Pakistan. It should be clear to the U.S. and other world powers that genuine nuclear non-proliferation can be achieved in south Asia only when New Delhi is forced to abandon its ambitious nuclear weapons programme.

Minister: No Rollback on Nuclear Program

BK2811144593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] The National Assembly began its session in Islamabad this afternoon. The session has been called on a requisition made by the opposition. The opposition wanted to discuss the nuclear policy of the government.

Making a statement in the house, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, said Pakistan is committed to nonproliferation but under no circumstances will it rollback its nuclear program. The foreign minister said the country, in pursuance of its peaceful program, has

acquired some technical capability in the nuclear field. He reiterated that a decision has been taken at the highest level to use this technology for peaceful purposes only and not to produce nuclear weapon. Pakistan has also decided not to transfer sensitive nuclear technology to third countries. The government will withstand any pressure aimed at eroding the vital economic dimensions of its peaceful nuclear program. Our peaceful nuclear program is an important national asset. Pakistan's policy on the nuclear issue has always enjoyed national consensus. This policy has been followed by successive governments, including the government of Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The foreign minister said because of its vital importance to our economic development and security, the political leadership in the country has made a conscious effort to avoid th politicization of our nuclear program. He expressed confidence that the house will not depart from this tradition.

A few minutes after recitation from the holy Koran, the opposition staged a walkout on the plea that the members of the treasury benches wanted to break the quorum. Afterward, the deputy leader of the opposition, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, told journalists that the opposition staged the walkout because the agenda given by them had not been included in today's order of the day. The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, attended today's session. However, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was not present. The house will now meet on Wednesday.

Later, talking to newsmen, the federal minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, Syed Iqbal Haider, said the purpose of requisitioning the session of the National Assembly by the opposition is not to discuss matters of national importance, rather it aims at intensifying polarization. It is the responsibility of the opposition to fulfill the requirement of quorum in the house, but today they were nonserious and their attitude was unruly. The minister said the government will continue to pursue the policy of coexistence with the opposition. Senator Iqbal Haider said the government has taken into confidence the members of the National Assembly and the people of Pakistan on the vital issue of nuclear energy and the foreign minister has given a detailed statement on the issue.

AJK's Khan Urges Kashmir Role in India Talks

BK2611122993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Nov 93 p 9

[Text] Muzafarabad: AJK Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan has said secretary level talks between India and Pakistan should be held in Washington or a third country where the US State Department and the Kashmiris from both sides of Kashmir can participate in the negotiations.

While expressing his impressions on the proposed secretry level talks between the two countries in January next, he said ina press statement that when blood of Kashmiris was being shed in the occupied Kashmir such talks without the participation of Mujahideen would be "totally meaning less" and hurting the feelings of the Kashmiris.

Sardar Qayyum explained that without the Kashmiris these talks would be an excuse to provide more time to India on the dispute and the negotiations would end with hackneyed statements "that the talks were held in friendly atmosphere and both parties agred to continue the process in future".

The AJK Premier clarified that "we are not against holding talks on Kashmir Pakistan always tried sincerely to make the parleys with India constructive. But India always explaoited such talks to elicit more time and took Pakistan's seriousness as weakness."

"Whenever India is under International pressure she resorts to talks and tris to dissolve the pressures".

Sardar Qayyum said the secretary level talks would be noting more than useless effort: "If it is part of some policy on the Kashmir issue the talks should also decide that withina period of a month a tripartite conference should be held.

To make the arleys more meaningful India should be asked to stop killing of Kashmiris and withdraw the security forces to the barracks, and civil administration should be restored in the occupied Kashmir, he demanded.

Expressing his reaction on the proposed talks the AJK PM contended the entire would has admitted that Kashmir is not a bilateral issue but "Kashmiris are the most important party to the problem" India always tried to keep the Kashmiris away from any negotiations on the issue.

Qayyum said by excluding Kashmiris from talks India wanted to create misunderstandings between the Kashmiris and Pakistanis. However, he said, there was no harm to delay the launching of resolution by Pakistan on the violations of human rights by India. But it should not be withdrawn permanently. This resolution should be tabled in February next year, he demanded. Qayyum said Pakistan should fully ensure that these talks would not be used by India against the freedom fighters and if the negotiations were being held on the initiative of a third country "It should he fruitful and conclusive," he emphasised.

Editorial: Islamabad Pressed Into India Talks

BK2711103593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 27 Nov 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Once Again Pakistan Pushed Into a Trap"]

[Text] According to news reports, Pakistan and India have agreed to resume talks on Kashmir and other thorny issues in the first week of January at the level of foreign secretaries. These negotiations are taking place in extremely intriguing circumstances and quite apparently

there has been a lot of arms-twisting, secret trade-offs, and behind the scene manoeuvring. So far there have been at least six rounds of talks on Kashmir between India and Pakistan, in which no progress was made towards the resolution of this issue.

The round of parleys to be held in January has to be seen in the backdrop of some extraordinary developments. First of all there is no mention of UN resolution on Kashmir in the communique issued simultaneously from New Delhi and Islamabad on the subject. Instead it has been emphasised that the discussions will be held in the framework of Simla agreement. That has far-reaching complications; one of which pertains to the status of Line of Control and the degree of involvement of Kashmiri people in negotiation for the resolution of this problem. Secondly quite recently Pakistan did not table a resolution in the General Assembly on Kashmir, but decided to withhold on the advice of our friends' as the Foreign Minister put it. Also significant is the fact that Pakistan had put forward three preconditions before agreeing to have a dialogue with India—first lifting of the siege of Hazratbal, improvement in Human Rights situation in Kashmir, and reduction in the number of troops in the Valley. It may be mentioned here that these were minimum conditions designed to test whether India is sincere in finding an amicable settlement or intends to use the opportunity for propaganda purposes. In the event only one condition was fulfilled and even that one partially, but our Foreign Minister says, who is an honourable man, that we agreed in good faith to resume talks, adding that this was done on the advice of 'our friends'. Translation—we were pressurised into these parleys by the US. The retraction in Pakistani position is fairly significant and points to an international conspiracy to impose a solution which suits the global interests of the Western Alliance, but which may not be in our best interests and may not fulfill the genuine aspiration of the people of Kashmir.

If you look at the series of concessions Pakistan has made in the context of the statement of Indian minister of state for external affairs in the wake of joint communique—who is reported to have said that the status of Kashmir as part of Indian union is not negotiable and that India has stronger focus on human rights than Pakistan—the situation becomes brutally transparent. One thing is quite certain—the talks have been made possible because Indian and American interests seem to converge on this point. India wanted to deflect world opinion and international community from concentrating on the issue. The most effective method of diverting this pressure was to agree on these symbolic talks. They have persuaded Washington to exert pressure on Islamabad and compel it to withdraw the issue from various international forums. On its part, the US designs in the South East Asia require some sort of settlement of this conflict. Americans policy has been dictated largely due to the realisation that liberation struggle is unstoppable. They want to defuse the conflict by halfway—house solution in which the ultimate winners are going to be the Indo- American axis. A semblance of freedom for Kashmiris under the combined hegemony of Washington and New Delhi is very much on the cards.

It is a pity that our government has fallen into this trap knowing full well that these meetings will be used by India to refurbish its image and demoralise the freedom fighters of Kashmir.

Bhutto, Foreign Minister Condemn Kashmir Violence

BK2811144093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has condemned the brutal acts of repression that have been perpetrated against the people of Jammu and Kashmir over the last two days. She has called upon India to refrain from using force against innocent Kashmiris. She said the brutal force used to disperse peaceful processions in Srinagar and other towns of Indian-held Kashmir on Friday followed by a so-called cordon and search operation in Sopor resulting in the killing of a large number of Kashmiris and scores of houses burned will not stand to the credit of India. The prime minister said the escalating violations of human rights regretfully are an indication that the Government of India has no regard for the spirit of the agreement reached for the foreign secretary-level talks and the understanding and that there would be a tangible reduction in human rights violation to create the right atmosphere. She said we had hoped that the partial end of the siege of Hazratbal Mosque on 16 November 1993 would be followed by withdrawal of military and paramilitary forces and easing of repression. The incidents of the past two days indicate the resolve of the Indian authorities to continue their merciless crackdown aimed at crushing the legitimate struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The siege of the mosque continues. The prime minister said the Government of Pakistan calls upon the Indian Government to take immediate steps to lift the so-called security cordon around Hazratbal Mosque, release Kashmiri leaders, and refrain from using force against innocent Kashmiris. Ms. Benazir Bhutto saluted the people of Jammu and Kashmir who are waging a heroic legitimate struggle for self- determination. She assured them of the whole-hearted moral, political, and diplomatic support of Pakistan.

Condemning yesterday's incidents, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, said the atrocities committed by Indian forces in occupied Jammu and Kashmir have reached an unprecedented level. Referring to the massacre of Kashmiris and premediated arson during the past two days, the foreign minister said Pakistan views these developments with serious concern. He said actions of the Indian Government run counter to the understanding recently reached for the holding of talks. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said this understanding underscores the need for a visible and tangible improvement in the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir. He

called upon the Indian Government to take immediate steps to remove the so-called security cordon around Hazratbal Mosque, stop the use of force against Kashmiris holding peaceful demonstrations, release Kashmiri leaders, and bring an end to the atrocities.

Indian 'Planned Massacre' Condemned

BK2911022893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Pakistan has condemned the increasing Indian repression in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement issued in Islamabad yesterday, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said the Pakistani Government asks that India end the siege of the Hazratbal Shrine, release the Kashmiri leaders, and refrain from using force against innocent Kashmiris. He said Indian repression in occupied Kashmir has reached extreme proportions. A planned massacre of Kashmiris was carried out in the last two days. Their houses were set ablaze. Pakistan is deeply concerned with the situation because it is prejudicial to the recent agreement on a dialogue on the Kashmir dispute. The foreign minister said this agreement warrants a distinct improvement in the human rights situation in Kahsmir.

'Nondemocratic' Constitution Provisions Reviewed

BK2511155493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Syed Iqbal Haider, federal minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, said that to maintain the supremacy of parliament, a fresh review of the Constitution is being undertaken. In an interview broadcast on Radio Pakistan today, he said keeping this objective in mind, a government committee is reviewing all those provisions which run counter to the principle of the supremacy of parliament so they can be abrogated. He said all the amendments introduced in the Constitution through presidential decrees during the martial law administration are now being reviewed. Necessary steps will be taken to eliminate the nondemocratic and harmful effects of these amendments.

Answering a question, Syed Iqbal Haider conceded that it will not be possible for the government to get any constitutional amendment passed without the opposition's cooperation. However, he expressed the hope that the opposition will not oppose these amendments for the sake of opposition only. The law minister said the government is also reviewing all ordinances issued by the previous caretaker government. Only those ordinances, which are in the national interest, will be presented in the National Assembly.

About the forthcoming session of the National Assembly which has been summoned at the request of the opposition to debate the nuclear program, Syed Iqbal Haider said the opposition is raising the issue unnecessarily, although the government has not ignored national interests. He said an open debate in the National Assembly on the country's nuclear program will not be in the national interest.

About the opposition's demand to link the issue of restoration of women's seats in the National Assembly with the Constitutional reforms package, Syed Iqbal Haider said this not appropriate because the Eighth Amendment [giving discretionary powers to president to dismiss prime minister and dissolve parliament] has no relation to the issue of restoration of women's seats.